



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are busy preparing the school for our planned mass testing from Monday 8th March, we hope the days run smoothly and wish to thank you for taking the time to provide consent and to book time slots for the tests. It has been a busy week, we have been overwhelmed with the speed of your response and the fact that consent has now been gathered for very nearly the whole school population.

You may be aware there has been some discussion about the wearing of masks in school. At the moment the guidance, reiterated from Public Health England, is that masks should be worn indoors where social distancing cannot be maintained. That means, of course, in classrooms and corridors. My message for students on this matter is that wearing masks is about protecting everyone in our community. We have some vulnerable students and staff who are reassured by testing and by the wearing of masks, and may feel unable to attend without these additional precautions. By wearing masks, we are supporting each other at this time. As you are aware this will be reviewed at Easter. I urge parents who believe their son/daughter to be exempt to let us know in advance so we avoid any difficulties. We will provide as many opportunities as possible for students to remove masks, between lessons when outdoors.

I would like to also remind you that our canteens, on both sites, will be operational next week at break and lunchtime. We are retaining the separation of year groups at these times, each with their own food distribution point and/or time.

It was World Book Day yesterday (Thursday 4th March). To help boost their reading students are able to access digital book tokens by following this link - <https://worldbookday.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fb0047e963000a5e90da3d8a4&id=e24d21a9a9&e=3cfde98675> Tokens are valid until the end of March. In addition to this, via the English Google Classroom, we are encouraging students to participate in a range of creative competitions and activities.

During this period of lockdown, I have been encouraging staff to find ways to recognise and celebrate successes with students. We believe in the motivational power of saying 'well done', recognition and rewards are at the heart of what we do. We have now linked the awarding of achievement points to the key character education attributes we have identified. More detail about our systems and approach can be found here - <http://www.imberhorne.co.uk/content/connect-imberhorne>.

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Finally, I would like to make you aware that Mr Conroy, Deputy Headteacher, is retiring (or semi retiring he informs me!). Mr Conroy joined us in 2014 and has had a marked impact across the school in many ways. He is a highly valued colleague and well-respected leader within and beyond the school. He will be sadly missed by all. You will hear more, later in the year, but I wished to share this news now so that if advertisements appear you are aware what this refers to.

I am sure there are mixed emotions about a return to school next week for students. Whilst there may be some anxiety and trepidation about returning after such a long break there will also be much excitement about seeing friends and learning in the classroom. We are very much looking forward to experiencing the energy and humour our students bring, once again. We crave normality and the vibrancy of school life.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher