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Message from the Headteacher:

The few weeks since we began planning to re-open the school have been a rollercoaster of emotions for the staff and I.

Frustration at some of the mixed messages from government and having to revisit painstaking plans to meet last minute guidance. Anxiety related to preparation and training to ensure our school environment is as safe as possible. Excitement of welcoming our year 1 pupils back to school. And then, over and above managing COVID-19, the shock and dismay around the recent worldwide events related to systemic racism.

It is my firm belief that it is incumbent upon us all to reiterate to each other and to our children the fact that our school and our school community does not and will not condone racism in any shape or form. That level of thinking or expression of hatred toward another human being has no place here and will be challenged should it surface. Our core purpose as educators is to educate our children and the fundamental thread of our education at Newhall is to instil social values which develop an inclusive, kind, respectful, non-judgmental mind-set in our children. That social expectation permeates every aspect of our school life and includes all who visit and work here.

Besides being a Reach2 school, our school is also part of the Harlow Education Trust (HET) and a statement regarding this issue which the primary and secondary Harlow head teachers have worked on together and which has been shared with parents is attached.

I have really enjoyed meeting some of the parents and children this week and I look forward to seeing some of our Reception children next week.

Mrs Ward

HOME LEARNING

Most of our pupils have been home since the 22nd March, some even longer than that. They have tried hard to complete the tasks which teachers have set for them and we know that the online learning has also played a big role in supporting them. Most importantly, we are aware that this period of being home with parents and possibly other siblings has also been wonderful for bonding with each other.

If you are one of our home learning pupils, we want you to know that we are very proud of you. We think of you every day. When you return to school, we promise to make up for this time that you are at home.

Year One

Year 1 have been working on a new topic 'Enchanted Forest' and we have been amazed by their imagination and their use of conjunctions in English. We have started working on arrays in Maths and are picking up this new skill very quickly. The 'Golden Mile' is the highlight of the day and we even had Mr Morris and Mrs Smart running today!

BUBBLES

This week our childcare group were joined by 25 of our Year 1 pupils. The children are in small groups called 'bubbles'. It has been lovely to hear our children's voices in the school again. The children were extremely pleased to see each other and we have been really impressed with the way they have adapted to the current 'new normal' and the new safety expectations. They have really shown us how resilient they are and we are extremely proud of them.

Next Monday and Tuesday we will be welcoming back some of our Reception children in three 'bubble' groups. We know that they are as excited about returning to school as we are and we can't wait to see them!