

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on things that have been happening at Greenbank in recent weeks and in particular to say a massive thank you to you all!

#### Thanks

We feel very blessed to have such fabulous parents and carers who have helped us enormously by supporting us in the changes we have made, particularly at the start and end of the school day. We do recognise the inconvenience this will be causing to many of you and we are really grateful that you are being so flexible and patient with us. Thank you also to all of you who are walking or parking your cars further away. The traffic on Arlington Avenue has always posed a risk to the children and the road now feels much safer. In addition it is also providing extra space for parents to socially distance while waiting to collect their children.

#### Nursery and Reception

Our Nursery and Reception children are now back in school. Many of them have already attended our Nursery and it is lovely to see both the children and their parents again. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents and carers of our new children in Nursery and Reception and hope your child enjoys many happy years with us. We have been very impressed with how quickly the children have settled into school.

#### Crossing Patrol

We have been informed that we no longer have anyone to help children to cross the road at the Smithdown Road/Greenbank Road junction. Our Lollipop Lady was redeployed during lockdown and at the present time she has not been replaced. This is far from ideal as this is a particularly busy road to cross, so we ask that you take extra care and if you have a Year 6 child walking to/from school on their own please remind them to only cross at the traffic lights.

#### Fencing Arlington Avenue

You may have noticed the small section of fencing that we have put in place alongside The Pele on Arlington Avenue. Most days we are finding litter here that has been pushed through the wire fencing at night time. Our grounds are checked every morning and this debris is removed before the children arrive. Some of the items found are of concern to us and we want to do our best to minimise the risk of the children finding them. So for this reason we will be placing fencing up along this section of the playground. We will be asking the children for their creative ideas to suggest how we should decorate it in the coming weeks.

#### Life at Greenbank

Whilst the current pandemic has forced us to implement some changes we have tried hard to maintain many aspects of school life. We are giving the children more opportunities to be outside and next week we will be resuming P.E. lessons. You should have received a notification on the ParentApp of which day of the week your child will be doing P.E. and they should come to school on that day wearing their P.E. kit. (You will find this information under the 'Latest News' section of the web site).

We have greatly limited visitors to the school site, but we are pleased to welcome back one of our music teachers, Mr Wheatcroft who is now teaching music lessons to the children in KS2. These started this week and the children had a wonderful time engaging in the lessons.

As we are no longer able to gather the children together in the hall, we have found an alternative way to hold KS1 and KS2 assemblies which we now do by Zoom. These assemblies have been very well received by the children and both children and adults have enjoyed having the opportunity to come together as a school community.

#### Local Lockdown

I am sure many of you have been following the news in both the local and national press of a proposed local lockdown. There have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst both staff and children in local schools. We are doing everything possible to reduce the risk of any cases in our school, but should your child or a member of your household display any of the 3 main symptoms we ask that your whole household self-isolates and you book a test

for the person with the symptoms. If you are unsure what to do please contact school, Mrs Heyes and Mrs Garnett will be happy to advise you.

Finally we just want to say how much it has meant to us all to have Greenbank fully re-opened and for us to see your children again. It has been so lovely to see their smiling faces again every day. They have adapted so well and we have been so impressed by their positivity and resilience in this current situation.

We wish you all a lovely weekend. Stay safe!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Wrigley  
Headteacher

