



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach our half term break, I reflect on the enormous challenges we have faced in the last year. Coronavirus has impacted our lives in a way we could never have imagined and we have all had to adapt to different ways of doing things. Our students have coped marvelously with the disruptions to their routines, better than we could have expected, and were able to enjoy individual and group sessions on Zoom during lockdown. I am truly grateful for all the support you, their families, provided to ensure our students continued to access their education remotely.

I am delighted that as restrictions lift we are able to return to some kind of normality. We are now able to enjoy more group sessions and assemblies to bring our students together and allow them to feel part of a community with their peers.

School life

It was lovely to welcome all the students back into school in March and April, and they all settled in quickly and happily. We were able to continue with the lessons in school that we had started over Zoom during the lockdown.

Our topic this term has been farming, and all the students have engaged well with this and enjoyed the variety of activities. We have looked at different types of farming, jobs, crops and farming around the world. We investigated different grains and seeds, and followed their journey from growing the crop to the finished item in the shop. We finished off with investigating fruits from around the world and locating on a map where they had come from.

We have also been able to start to access the community again, with trips to the park and outdoor activity areas which have been very successful. Over a number of Fridays, a group of students have enjoyed outdoor adventurous activities at a Scout Outdoor Activity Centre in Chalfont. They have engaged in activities such as circus skills, orienteering and zip wire experience. The students continue to enjoy their music therapy and street dance sessions back in school with Andy and Lewis.

In maths our focus has been revisiting and reinforcing number including place value and decimals where appropriate, and for English we have been looking at 'writing for purpose' including diaries, emails and letters.

KiteFest

Unfortunately, we felt it was too soon to restart KiteFest this year. We are planning to come back big in 2022 and hopefully free of all restrictions. However, we have decided to use one of the "KiteFest" days (Wednesday 30th June) for a Kite Ridge School community Celebration Day. This will involve a picnic lunch for all and contributions from professional acts; Pete Blackett is booked for a drumming session and we will use this day as a "leavers' assembly" for one of our students. All families are invited to join us if they wish, more details to follow.

Staff news

We have had some exciting changes to the staff team this term. Some people have taken on new challenges whilst we have, sadly, said goodbye to others.

Beverley left us at the end of last term after almost 7 years. We are extremely grateful to Beverley for all her hard work and dedication to our students and school community. Beverley has gone to work in a neighbouring county helping families in need, and we wish her well.

Miss Willard has taken on the role of Deputy Headteacher and Sarah has taken on the role of Senior Learning Mentor. I know they will both be fantastic and will rise to the new challenges they face.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Shiraz as a teacher from September. Mrs Shiraz comes with a wealth of knowledge and is excited to bring new ideas to our bespoke teaching team.

We are currently looking to recruit a Positive Behaviour Support Manager to enable to develop our outreach programme.

As always, please do contact us with any queries or concerns you may have. I hope you and your families have a pleasant half term break and that the weather is kind to us all. Schools resumes as normal on Monday 7th June.

Best wishes,

Steven Sneesby

Headteacher