



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 04/02/22

Dear Parents

It has been a relatively quiet week in terms of Covid. Numbers within the school have remained static and, although they have not diminished, we should be grateful that they have not risen following the national relaxation on restrictions last week. School has therefore continued to operate more or less as normal and the familiar safeguards remain in place.

It was lovely to see and hear some of you at the online PAFA meeting earlier this week. Many thanks to Michelle and the committee for all that they do to support the school and for the various donations to the school that were approved at the meeting. One point that came across strongly in discussion was the desire of the parents of our youngest pupils to get back into the classrooms to reconnect with their children's learning. Mr Rogers will be thinking creatively about how this can be managed safely after half term.

More immediately, we were grateful to two Reception parents who redecorated Reception classrooms to celebrate Chinese New Year and to the seven Reception pupils who paraded around Mr Rogers' office in the costume of a dragon.

Pupils in Year 6 and above will be invited to participate in a survey after half term in relation to our EDI (Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion) agenda. The survey will be run by *Flair Impact* and will give pupils an opportunity to reflect on their views and experiences related to race while at school. This will build on the work of the EDI group in the senior school and on the anti-racist policy that we introduced last year following consultation with Joanna Abeyie. Flair have conducted similar surveys in more than 50 independent schools which enables them to benchmark the results which will be shared with parents and pupils subsequently. The exercise will enable us to identify areas for future focus within the school. This will be an important piece of work for us and I hope very much that all pupils will participate in the survey.

With just a week to go until half term, I'm sure we are all much relieved that the term has not yet been significantly interrupted. I am grateful to all members of the school community, parents included, for your cheerful support and patient co-operation with the remaining restrictions and look forward to lifting more of them between now and Easter.

With best wishes to all

Richard Russell
Headmaster