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Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly I would like to thank all our families for the support, patience and feedback since the start of term. That includes the children who have adapted to the changes and expectations really well. I am amazed at the increased independence they have shown over this short time. We understand this is a challenging time and that we are all having to adjust to the constantly changing circumstances. Your feedback and supportive suggestions have been very helpful in ensuring we can make important improvement in our provision.

The measures we have put in place to ensure the children's and adults safety are being really well maintained by us all. To continue to support us can please take the time to speak to your children to reinforce; HANDS, SPACE, FACE and the importance of remembering not to touch other people and their things. It is important this becomes a habit for moving forward and a natural part of their new normal.

This week's attendance was 91% and sits well above the national average of 83% last week. Given the current circumstances it shows that we are working well together to ensure children are in school whenever possible and keep each other safe. We have had a small number of families self-isolating. During this time the school is using blended learning to support home learning. The expectation is that children will use the virtual platform to engage with their learning live in classroom for some of the time at home. Thank you to those parents who have been working hard with the school to begin to explore the many ways this can take place. It is an exciting journey and one we are keen to become part of our everyday life at Robert Blair.

As you will know over the last two weeks we have been conducting our school council elections. Children in phase two were nominated by their peers, from all classes, and prepared their presentations for viewing on google classroom. This meant that everyone across the school got to watch all the presentations, and to vote. Voting took place yesterday with our middle hall becoming a 'COVID secure' polling station. I am extremely proud of all of the children who took part. Congratulations to our new school council members who, in no particular order, are: **Shane Lyon, Year 5, Zack El-Safty, Year 6, Lilly Grace, Year 4, Olivia Mardon Year 6, Ahmed El-Zein Year 4, Amari McLean Edwards Year 6, Fathima Aireche Year 6, Bavin Hedy Year 6 & Gison Nkikunde Year 4.**

I remind all parents that social distancing is in operation at all gates during drop off and collection. Please ensure you line up in single file, against the wall, applying the social distancing measure of 2m where ever possible. Unfortunately, a few parents are crowding the gates and blocking the entrances /exits for classes as they arrive or leave. This is causing delays for the teachers and children. Classes are released in gate order and children will not be released into an unsafe area where social distancing is not in place. Please be mindful if you are using a buggy that it is not blocking the pavements or gate areas. There are a small number of parents being unreasonably demanding and this is only causing further delay. I have asked teachers to move away from the gates if they feel it is unsafe for themselves or the children, and to wait for the appropriate social distancing to be in place. Failing to do so will only cause further delays. We



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recommend that you wear a mask when dropping off or collecting your child at the school gate. It is important we all work together for health and safety of everyone.

Please can we also remind you that smoking at the school gates is a health hazard to our children and adults. We ask that smoking take place at least 50metres from the school grounds when the school is open. This a local authority expectation for all Islington schools. We will ensure no smoking signs are erected at all entrance to remind you.

If you wish to speak with a teacher, or another member of staff directly, please contact them via the school office or google classroom. Teachers are busy at the school gate with our 'registers of wellness.' Given the current demands they do not have time to hear individual concerns or discuss your child in any detail. We will always get back to you within two working days where we will be able to give you and your child both the time and privacy they deserve.

It is hard to believe we are only four weeks into the autumn term. We are all learning new ways of working. Home school conversations took place this, a big well done to all the parents and children who manged this via goggle classroom.

Please take the time this weekend to speak to your child/ren about what they have been doing in school, the new learning they have achieved this week and what targets they will be working on next week.

Best Wishes



Michelle Bahn  
Headteacher