



18th May 2021

Dear Families,

I cannot believe how time is flying by so quickly. We are already almost at the end of the first half of the summer term.

What has been happening?

We have continued to deliver streamed Mathematics sessions to children in Years 1-6, which we are starting to see the benefits of. Our Mathematics lead, Heads of School and myself have enjoyed observing the children in their Mathematics sessions and providing feedback to the staff. We have particularly noted a growing confidence in the children who find Mathematics much more challenging and some quite complex multi layered problems for children who are confident to 'reason and explain' their mathematical thinking.

Our curriculum themed days in Music, Art and Design, Geography, Religious Education and Mental Fitness have provided those additional enriched experiences that have involved the children enjoying a little bit of sewing, listening and responding to a variety of music, learning about extreme weathers around the world and having discussions about being resilient and taking responsibility.

Our curricular teams have been working hard to plan some exciting themed events for the children and yourselves for next half term. Details of an exciting charity event and our very own version of the Olympic Games will be with you this Friday. Please make sure that you carefully read all correspondence sent home, as The BeDifferent Federation prepares itself to embrace a whole host of challenges.

The teaching staff are very busy at the moment completing each child's end of academic year school report and these will be parentmailed on **Friday 25th June 2021**.

Our annual Sayers Croft residential visit has been booked for our current Year 3 children and we are thrilled with the interest of families who are keen for their child to enjoy a fabulous recreational visit with their friends.

The Head/Deputy Head Boy and Girl team have been involved in making decisions about what their leavers plans will look like. We will be planning a slightly different end to the year but one that has been chosen by the Year 6 children and one which will mark a very different end of Primary School experience.

'Further Recovery'- what more can our children expect?

As a Senior Leadership Team, we have reviewed the BeDifferent risk assessment in line with the nations easing of restrictions. We have started to look much more closely at the learning experiences that we can provide whilst still operating in year group 'bubbles'. These experiences will come into effect from **Monday 7th June 2021** and will include:

- singing, cooking and the sharing of food as part of a planned activity
- cycling/scootering to school with bicycles and scooters being stored back on site
- visits outside of the local area but not travelling on public transport
- small group social, emotional sessions in phase year groups only
- full range of Merton Music Foundation activities.

We will no longer be requesting families or staff to wear a mask/face shield when bringing children to school or collecting them. Any school-based professionals working with children inside of the school





will still continue to wear a mask and will be required to do a lateral flow test. Keeping the entrance to the school as clear as is possible is obviously the safest way for your child to come onto the school site and the same applies when they leave to go home. Please be mindful of large gatherings.

We continue to ask you to be vigilant if you or someone in your household begin to have any of the coronavirus symptoms. Please continue to contact us in the event of requesting a PCR test for your child and the need to self-isolate.

From after this half-term (**7th June 2021**) we will begin our Rapid Recovery sessions for identified children from Reception to Year 5 to enjoy after school. We plan to provide these sessions, as an extension to the existing school day. Details of our Rapid Recovery sessions will be with you at the beginning of next week.

I will of course keep you regularly updated and as I have said from the very start of this pandemic, any decisions that have been made so far continue to put the children and staff first.

Lunchtime questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete the lunchtime questionnaire with your child. We have collated the results and we will be working closely with our newly appointed catering team to ensure that our food tastes, looks delicious and is very much a special part of the school day for all children and staff.

Thank you and 'good luck' Mrs Newman

I would like to wish Mrs Newman and her family all the very best, as they prepare to welcome a little new addition to their family. Mrs Newman will begin her maternity leave immediately after the half-term holiday. We look forward to meeting her little one soon.

Children's access to online content

I would like to bring to your attention the concern that I have for what some of our older children may be accessing online. I have never spent so much of my time talking to families and groups of children about the impact of what they see or communicate themselves. I am aware that children have spent so much more of their time at home and I am afraid that this has provided an even greater opportunity for them to 'connect' and explore, without really understanding the implications of what they are actually doing.

Whilst we recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life and can play an important role in helping children to feel safe and secure, it is imperative that they are not used to cause harm to others or to put oneself at risk. We recognise that mobile phones can be used to communicate inappropriately, both through the use of a range of social media sites and through group and individual chats. Recent communication has included inappropriate photos and the creation of Tik Tok reels that are of an inappropriate nature. It is so important that you all have an awareness of what your child is using their phone for and if you see any inappropriate activity, you should inform us immediately.

In order to protect your child from seeing inappropriate content online you could:

- talk with them about what they've seen – let them know what is and isn't, appropriate for their age.





- reassure them they can come to you, another trusted adult or [Childline](#) if they're worried about something.
- get advice on setting up [parental controls](#).
- report any inappropriate, illegal, explicit, identifying or distressing content to [CEOP](#) through their website.
- block any distressing, inappropriate or upsetting content on social media websites. You can learn how to do this through [Net Aware](#), in partnership with O2.

I strongly urge you to familiarise yourselves with what your children are communicating online to prevent any further misuse or upset.

Little reminders for you

The half-term holiday will begin on **Monday 31st May** and all children will return to school on **Monday 7th June 2021**.

Enjoy the rest of this week,

Mrs Bull
Chief Executive Headteacher

