



**The Manor**  
Preparatory School

## **To All Parents**

Friday 22 May 2020

Dear Parents

### **Half Term Update**

As we come to the end of the first half of the Summer Term, it would be easy to reflect on the challenges that we have all faced in every aspect of life since lockdown began. For our children and staff, a complete change to their way of working, for families a time without being able to see relatives and friends and for us all the shift away from everything that we have ever known. However, I would prefer to really focus on the amazing progress that has been made.

Our children have begun to master skills which will inevitably prepare them for the future. They have developed qualities such as independent learning, resilience, perseverance and determination. They have had to work extremely hard and whilst it may have seemed difficult at times, I have only heard and seen really positive examples of the work that they have been producing. Clearly the focus has been on Core Academic Subjects but I have loved seeing creativity unleashed in all forms and the children have been showing what they are capable of using their imagination and their passion alongside support both from home and school. This time has allowed them to focus on what they love and that has shone through. We are seeing children going above and beyond to complete projects that they have become absorbed by at moments in the week which best suit how they are feeling. Every single one of them has achieved. A huge thank you therefore goes to everyone, children, staff and parents for the collaborative effort that has gone in. I genuinely believe that as a community, we will emerge stronger from this experience.

### **Planning for Partial Re-opening**

Over the course of this last week we have written a comprehensive Risk Assessment and COVID-19 Response Policy which have been shared with the staff body. At a meeting on Wednesday, these documents were duly considered and robustly challenged by the Full Governing Board before they were approved for circulation. We decided that we would like to share them with you so that you can see the steps that are already being taken to protect our school community. As part of the Risk Assessment there are three posters which we will be displaying around school and which really emphasise the importance of hygiene and social distancing. These will be prominent for those children in school and we will be regularly reminding them of these rules. It would be extremely helpful if you could share this information with your children in advance of Monday 1 June so that those returning are ready after the half term break. This will also offer the chance to explain that school will inevitably be different but we are all hopeful that a full and normal return will soon be possible and we will all be raring to go.

For those children in Year Groups who are not returning, the Remote Learning programme will remain in place and all staff who are delivering that teaching will not be physically on site so that their complete focus remains on delivering these lessons.

Next week we continue to prepare the site and we will be finalising operational details. These will be communicated to you in full next week.

### **Stevensons**

Stevensons have informed us that if you would like to order online, they are accepting orders. Most items are in stock and they hope to be able to post out orders from Monday 8 June. Later on when they hope to re-open, they will be offering appointments only in the first instance to adhere to social distancing requirements.

### **Term Dates**

The 2021/22 term dates are attached to this week's mailing.

On a final note, we would like to share this link with you - <https://tinyurl.com/ybnwh6jk> - to brighten up your day and to remind us all of how much we miss being physically at The Manor and together. We wish you all a very happy half term break.

Yours

Alastair Thomas  
Headmaster