



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

4th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I had the pleasure of seeing Year 7 volunteers making lanterns for the Young Epilepsy Centre this week, the hall at Windmill Lane was an interesting sea of paper tissue and glue. From this, however, the most amazing creations developed. At a time when we have limited opportunities for students to undertake extra activities it was wonderful to see so many (80+) give their time up after school to do this. The lanterns are for the winter wonderland garden at the Young Epilepsy Centre, photos of the students and their lanterns are on our Facebook page. It was also wonderful to see the Christmas hampers prepared by students for families in our locality. I am moved by the generosity of parents and carers in supporting such initiatives, I am also impressed with our students who want to get involved and make a difference. They are a credit to our community.

We are holding our first, full, parents' consultation evening this week. Parents have made virtual appointments with their son/daughter's subject teachers. This requires multiple appointments for parents, fully testing our new system over a few hours. We hope, in the absence of face to face meetings, that this offers an appropriate alternative and welcome feedback. Such communication is an important part of our relationship with families. We are entering the last two weeks of term at a time when news of a vaccine and a programme of immunisations brings some solace to us all. Whilst we know that this is an enormous undertaking and will therefore take time to have a wider impact, it still means however we have a direction of travel, back towards normality. We hope, at a point in the Spring term, that things will look increasingly positive, until then we must remain careful and will, as a school, continue to follow the procedures that have served us well to date.

On that point I would like to raise the matter of masks in school. To date we have given out over 350 masks to students who have forgotten/lost/damaged their own. We have stated that it is important for students to wear masks when in transit (moving around the site), helping to minimise the risk of transmission. Handing out such quantities of masks, in addition to the cost of hand sanitiser and other measures we have in place puts a heavy financial burden on the school. We were recently informed that these costs will not be reimbursed to the school. That news came as shock to us, we are worried about spiralling costs and ask that families support us by ensuring students come to school with appropriate masks to wear.

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The Autumn term ends on Friday 18th December at 12.20pm. Everyone deserves a good rest and, I hope, a joyful and relaxing festive period, despite the many limitations placed on us. I am very appreciative of all that my colleagues have achieved this term. Teaching requires us to give of ourselves, we all make such personal investments with our classes and to the school. Nurturing young minds is a special thing to be able to do but, over time, it drains you physically and emotionally. This year, more than ever with so many different demands on staff, everyone needs rest and recuperation. The Spring term commences on Monday 4th January.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher