

Wolverhampton City Council

Castlecroft Primary School

Headteacher: Mr A. Dyll

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Dear parents/carers,

We are sure that the children will be looking forward to returning to school and that they will be excited about seeing their friends and school staff however many children feel anxious when returning to school after the summer holidays and this year we are very aware that the long absence from school will have affected the mental well being of some of our pupils and that anxiety about returning to school may be heightened for many.

By mental well being we mean *Children and young people feeling good, feeling that their life is going well, and feeling able to get on with their daily lives.*

We want to do our best to support the children's mental well being as they return to school and in order to do this it would help us if we knew how they are feeling about the strange situation we have all found ourselves in and how they feel about returning to school, By gathering this information we will be able to prepare for the children's return and decide how best to offer appropriate support for the school, classes and individual children.

Please could you fill in and return the following survey to us to help us support the children. The survey will be available on survey monkey and the link to this can be found on the school website or on the Castlecroft facebook page. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy we have enclosed one but please post it back by the deadline.

The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 28th August. You will need to complete a survey for each of your children. It will be more useful if we have the name of your child on the survey, however, if you wish to keep the survey anonymous then please leave this part blank and only complete the year group so that we can still address your child's concerns in classroom lessons. (However this would mean that we would not be able to offer your child any individual support.)

The survey will be analysed by SMT to get an idea of how our children are coping as a whole school and as classes and individuals. This will enable us to decide how much time we need to spend on supporting the mental well being of the children and how we will do so. This will in the first instance be through whole class lessons and discussions however in some cases it may be that individual children need further support through nurture groups, one to one sessions or possibly even accessing a counsellor which can be arranged through school.

This has been an extremely difficult time for everyone so please be reassured that if your child has had worries or anxieties about the situation they will not be alone and this is in no way a reflection on your parenting and no judgements will be made about your family. There are many adults whose mental well-being has been affected by this frightening and unprecedented situation so it is not surprising that many children will have struggled despite the support of their parents.

Please be reassured that as a school it is our intention to balance the need for getting back to the academic curriculum with the mental wellbeing needs of our children. In the first few weeks we will be doing lots of work discussing what has happened at an age appropriate level and doing PSHE lessons which deal with feelings and self esteem. We will be doing extra practical lessons and moving towards reintroducing academic work by gradually increasing our expectations so that the children do not feel overwhelmed.

If you feel that you would rather talk to us about your child's anxieties or experiences whilst being away from school or you feel concerned about the impact that the school closure has had on your child then please contact Mr Dyall or Mrs Birbeck-Simpson.

Thank you for helping us to gather this information. Please ensure that your survey is completed online or returned to us by Friday 28th August so that we can analyse them before school starts.

Yours sincerely
S.Birbeck-Simpson
Deputy Headteacher

A.Dyall
Head teacher