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Headteacher: James Veness

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Hendreds Parents and Carers

Welcome back - we hope that you and your families have been keeping safe and well these last few months. It has been an unusual time for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges and change on so many fronts, but we know many have also found unexpected positives. We are continuously amazed by the resilience, kindness and ingenuity many people show in the face of such adversity and this is true at The Hendreds too. It is no small undertaking to grapple with the challenges of the pandemic, coming as they do on top of the other changes the school has been navigating: I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jamie Veness and the Senior Leadership Team, to our fellow Governors, and to all of the staff at The Hendreds for their hard work and commitment, without which the school would not be the unique and inspiring place it is.

The return to school two weeks ago is an important step, and whatever the last 6 months have held for each of us, it is understandable that there might still be some nervousness. We are fortunate, that the community incidence of COVID-19 is lower in Oxfordshire than in many other parts of the country. This and the preparations that the school has made mean that we are in a good position to minimize the risks of infection as we go back to school. However, there is no room for complacency, and it is up to all of us now to do our bit to keep those risks as low as possible.

Whilst, judging by the faces at the school gate, the children are thrilled to be back with their friends, this is a particularly exciting moment for all of those that are joining us for the first time. The school and the governors are aware that this is the beginning of a long journey, a journey which we are making together. We recognise and respect the trust that this demands from you in us, and that this trust will be key to make the children blossom and grow throughout their time at the school. Good communication will be at the heart of this, so please reach out if you have any questions - large or small. One of the biggest changes from nursery to primary school is that the information you receive will be different and seem possibly less. We have a detailed communication policy on the website which sets out clearly what you can expect and when, which may help and reassure. But beyond the policy, there is always an open door and we are very happy to hear from you- the best way to contact us is through the school office, and we will try to respond as soon as we can.

On behalf of the Governing Body - to new faces and old ones - thank you for being part of this community. We wish you and your children a happy and fulfilling term -stay safe and well!

With very best wishes

Chris Wheaton and Asta von Stackelberg  
Chair and vice-Chair of Governors, The Hendreds School