

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope that this message finds you safe and well.

I'm emailing now on behalf of the Honeywell Governing Bodies to share with you some of what we've been doing to support the schools in their response to the challenges of these new ways of working.

Like many others, we have moved online for our work, and the full Governing Body met by Zoom on the 30th of April. This gave us all the opportunity to understand how the schools are managing during this challenging time and how they are planning for the future, in both the near and longer term. It was clear that the schools are on a 'journey' with the different aspects of the schools' offering (both inside and outside school) evolving on a weekly basis. The schools have been listening to all sources of feedback and are continuously using this, together with discussions with other schools, to build on the manner and platforms by which they can best offer the provision of home learning.

We appreciate that the rapid shutdown of the schools coincided with a rapid shutdown of most workplaces, and just as there weren't too many guidelines for working from home, neither was there a blueprint for home learning – with little or no direction from the Department of Education or Wandsworth Council for what home learning should look like, consequently the schools provision is continually evolving week on week.

I found it really uplifting to hear the video messages from the Headteachers last week, and I encourage you, if you haven't seen them yet, to take a moment to listen to them. The Headteachers and Honeywell staff are working hard behind the scenes to establish a home schooling offer that works across different family environments. We would like to formally thank the Headteachers and all the dedicated staff for everything they are doing to keep Honeywell as a happy place of learning – both as a physical school for the children of key workers and virtually for the other Honeywell families. We understand this has not been an easy endeavour as staff are facing the same challenges at home that we are all facing; many are also parents undertaking some form of home schooling, some have health conditions or have family members with health conditions that place them into the vulnerable category, some need to be self-isolating and some are undertaking caring responsibilities at home. Ultimately, Honeywell Schools aim to keep all staff as safe as possible.

The Headteachers and staff are continually researching and planning to refine the home schooling offering further. I am pleased to hear that many of the children have already enjoyed seeing their teachers in short video lessons. Both schools are looking to utilise this platform further as the feedback suggests it engages the children in the topic and helps them maintain a feeling of connection with school. The phone calls that were initiated last week will also continue until children can all be back in school.

We are confident that the schools are developing systems and practices that will ensure your children's learning stays interesting and in line with the curriculum, and that, just as importantly, the children's health and wellbeing is safeguarded. The schools are continuing to evolve the home learning platform to cater for the needs of all children in the safest possible environment until the schools reopen.

The senior management teams from both schools are also planning on how the children can return to school safely (in phases) and to ensure any gaps in learning are identified and addressed. In light of the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday, the senior teams will be refining these plans further and as this is a moving target this planning needs to be fluid.

Our message to you would be to continue to find the right fit for your family from the Honeywell home learning platform, and to reach out to class teachers and/or the Headteachers at any time that you need further support or would like to provide feedback.

We all look forward to a time when the Honeywell community can be together again in our usual school environment. We will be meeting again as a full governing body before half term, and will keep working together to support the schools as we move to the next phase of this unprecedented journey.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well.

Karen di Lorenzo
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Bodies