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Principal: Ms Emma Taplin

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to for everyone to be back in the building this week. It has been such a joy to see each year group return and adjust back into school life with such ease. It really has been remarkable to see how well Avanti Fields students have adapted to change and the remarkable resilience and maturity they continue to show. It is natural that some might feel a little anxiety but with time and support all we be able to make that adjustment and relax into day to day school life.

Testing has gone very smoothly – all students have responded calmly and sensibly and I must add a huge thank you to our team, led by Mrs Parker, for the mammoth efforts in carrying out the process so smoothly and efficiently. The programme continues into next week and once three tests in school are complete students will be able to collect a home testing kit to undertake twice a week. More details on this process will follow.

We are excited to be back to the core business of learning, focussing on both recalling and embedding knowledge and reflecting on the lockdown experience. We are mindful that some may need support and time to adjust; the last year has been incredibly challenging time for everyone and for our young people it marks a significant period in their young lives like no other. It is important we reflect and acknowledge the experience, their difficulties and fears as well as the achievement and growth. I am confident that with support from home and school they will gain from the experience, coming out stronger and wiser.

Students tell me they are glad to be back and it is clear from the excitement in the playground that seeing friends they have missed is so important to them. Their gratitude and enthusiasm is such a boost for staff too. Teaching remotely is not the natural way to engage and it was clear from walking about the building that energy has return to our classrooms, something that we have missed greatly.

With the roadmap before us we can all begin to hope and plan for a better times to come but in the meantime we have two key days planned to mark and celebrate; March 19th will be Comic Relief day where students can come in non-uniform for the donation of £1 to charity and on Friday March 26th we will celebrate Lord Chaitanya's birthday, a day when students can come in traditional and festive dress to celebrate this day. Two days of colour and joy to mark the hope of spring to come.

Kind regards

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Emma Taplin Principal

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