



# PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was so lovely to see the whole school awash with red today to support Red Nose Day. We are so grateful to you all for supporting this cause. We also really appreciate you being so willing to move over to the online way of paying. We have found that this is much more efficient and effective way of donating and raising money for charities.

## **The work continues**

This week has been very much about consolidation! We all knew that after having the time away from school that the return would have some highs and lows. I think that we have seen all of those this week and I know that the children (and perhaps adults – although maybe that is only me!) are feeling a little more tired this week.

One of the things that I really want to reflect on; however, is where we are with the curriculum, your child's learning and their progress and attainment. I have been beating the same drum throughout this pandemic that we need to ignore the media reports about 'catch-up'. It's a horrible and unhelpful phrase that does not capture the situation that we are in and does not reflect the complexities of the situation.

What we have seen, and what we know, is that our children are all unique. They have all engaged in things in different ways and so we need to treat them as such. These cohorts of children are not 'behind' anyone. Rather, they are exactly where they are! Just like with any cohort of children, it is a school's job to look at

where children are in their learning, identify what the next steps in learning are and then teach them those steps – it sounds simple when we say it like that!

I listened to a brilliant webinar this week from Sir Kevan Collins who is working on 'Recovery' and it was so refreshing to hear his views (partly because they reflect what most in education have been thinking!). He said that recovery needs to be fair, focused and fearless, which I think we can all agree on. We have particularly thought about how we can remain focused by doing fewer things, but doing them really well.

One of the most refreshing things he went on to say was about how success could be measured. There were obvious references to attainment and closing the gap between peers (not previous years), but the one he talked about most was that learning is about people and that we need to factor in the wider outcomes for children. This has always been part of the Palace Wood way and is so important!

Finally, Sir Kevan talked about the input we need to secure those outcomes. Again, as we would expect, high quality teaching was the most important factor and we have and continue to invest in our teachers so that we can continually improve our practice. The most important part, and one which has evaded the news, was time. He recognised that we are looking at these 'gaps' taking time to close, and we are talking years not months. Whilst this

may seem obvious, the spin in the media seems to have been to get things back on track by September. We need to understand that it isn't going to happen that way. If we could have covered the curriculum in less time but retained the depth required, we would have already been doing it!

I felt this was really important to share with you. We will always be committed to making sure children are given the best conditions to succeed. However, we won't compromise that for quick fixes.

### **I've had the jab badges!**

I know you will have seen the ParentMail about the fantastic 'I've had the jab' badges designed and masterminded by Alice in Monkeys. It is such a fantastic thing and this has now been extended through local radio where Alice overcame her nerves to deliver a brilliant interview yesterday. We are all so proud of Alice for what she has done. If you know someone who has had the jab, why not order them a badge. You can do this either through ParentMail or through the link on the website below. <http://maidstone-magazine.co.uk/buy-7-year-old-alices-ive-had-the-jab-badge-for-charity/>



### **And finally**

It is almost exactly a year to the day that schools closed for the first national lockdown. Thinking back to that time, I don't think any of us could have predicted what we would have had to overcome in that time. I genuinely thought that we'd have two weeks before Easter and then be back after the Easter holidays and that would be that! One thing that we have all learned is that the Palace Wood community is a strong and powerful force and I am grateful to have been part of it with you all.

Have a great weekend

Mark Chatley

#### **Dates:**

7 June	INSET day
19 March	Red Nose Day – see below <a href="#"><u>It's not too late to donate</u></a> <small>RED NOSE DAY</small>
26 March	Non-uniform day for PoetsIN <small>(cash in sealed envelope please)</small>
2-16 April	Easter Holidays

#### **Letters sent home (parentmails)**

All	Red Nose Day
	PoetsIN (Marathon run)
	Charity Days – Clarification
Yr5	Box for cookery required
All	Devices – please return
EYFS	Happy Mother's Day
Yr1	Box for RE Lesson needed
	Giraffes & Panthers Student Info

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/palace-wood-primary-school-rednoseday21>