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1ST April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may have seen on the news, testing is no longer taking place for COVID 19. We do have some rules in place in case there is an outbreak but we are no longer required to test pupils. I will forward you further details as to what the process will be in case there is an outbreak.

However, as we no longer will be testing two mornings per week, this does give us an opportunity to use this time in school for other things. What I want to do is to open up these two mornings to the children as "drop-in talking shops". We know that many of our children suffer from mental health difficulties, along with other issues that affect them such as sexual identity, anger, confusion and anxiety. We are not mental health professionals, but we are good listeners, and most importantly, we do not judge. We do not judge anyone based on their disability, gender, sexual identity, colour or religion. Many of the staff come from diverse backgrounds and have had to deal in the past with the same issues the children deal with. We will give the children an opportunity to talk about how they feel in a safe environment free from fear or judgement.

We will identify those children we think need the extra time to talk to someone and we will hold a drop-in session for those children who are feeling anxious on the day and need a space to talk or simply just to sit quietly and have space to think. Anxiety is a horrible thing; it eats away at you and wears you down. I do not want anyone to feel this way in this school. We cannot prescribe medicine or give clinical advice, but we can listen and we can ensure that if the children are feeling anxious about identity or school or the world in general, we will try our best to put things in perspective and to treat every day as a new beginning and a new hope.

Yours faithfully

David Kirk

Headteacher: Mr. D. Kirk BA (HONS)
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