

Faye Fenton-Stone
Head of Acremont

7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the decorations get packed back up in the loft and we consider whether to renew the gym membership again this year, may I wish you a wonderful New Year and I hope that 2022 will be a successful, healthy and above all, happy one for you and your family. I would also like to welcome new families to our pre-prep at the start of term and wish you all a memorable and joyful time in our community.

Despite the never-ending news flashes, reports of increasing percentages and working from home advice, I am pleased to say that we start the Lent Term in a state of calm. I cannot say how long this will last but we open our doors prepared for a term of excellent learning and fulfilling activities. Based on guidance issued on 2nd January, we will function much as we did before the Christmas holidays.

We must be aware, however, that the Covid landscape locally is at a significant level and above the national average. To that end, the Cambridgeshire Director of Education has recommended that parents do not come into buildings until the end of January at the earliest and that we continue to prioritise maximum ventilation, extended cleaning regimes and high levels of sanitary hygiene. At Acremont we have decided to also implement single year group clubs (where possible), year group separation in before- and after- school activities and have a clearer separation between Nursery and Pre-Prep. We hope that this will lessen the impact on numbers of close contacts among the children and help to keep staff safe and in school. When we do have positive cases, as in the Michaelmas Term, we will ring fence that year group to help prevent the spread of the virus. I will alert you of confirmed positive cases in the Pre-Prep or Nursery and again correspond with those families who may be deemed a 'close contact'.

Please contact Louise King (louiseking@kingsely.org) if you have any queries, need advice, or notice any symptoms. Children should not be at school if they are unwell, and coughs and colds spread regardless of whether the PCR test comes back negative. Today, you will receive a reminder letter about symptoms, testing and actions to take from Mrs King. We kindly ask you to keep school and Nursery informed should anyone in your household test positive for covid.

I have decided not to count how many 'Welcome to the New Term' letters I have written that have been overshadowed by Covid guidance and changes to our routines, but please know we are very excited to welcome your children back to school. Whilst we may be standing on shifting sands, we are prepared for remote learning whilst planning and sincerely hoping that we all can

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remain together at school and Nursery. We are determined to go on trips this term and deliver challenging and inspiring learning indoors and outdoors.

Acremont children should come to school tomorrow with their full Games kit, ready to change in school, for their weekly PE and Games lessons. Year 1 and 2 pupils will focus on netball and football skills in their Friday morning Games lesson and will need shin pads and long football socks for the football sessions. School PE trainers are to be worn please, rather than studded football boots. Mouthguards will not be required this term. Reception pupils will focus on core strength and gross motor skills this term, in a gymnastics-style weekly Games lesson. We look forward to sharing updates on their progress in these areas as the term develops.

On behalf of Mrs Lever, please may I remind those parents to whom this is relevant, to book your child's wrap around care sessions for the term, via the My School Portal. In addition, you can book your child's Lent Term clubs and activities via the My School Portal from 2000 tomorrow evening. A revised list of available activities is attached for your reference.

We are counting down the hours until we can throw open the doors and fill the house, playgrounds, and Nursery with the sounds of your children's laughter, questions, play ideas and news and so continue our busy, fun and enriching time together.

With all best wishes,

Faye Fenton-Stone
Head of King's Ely Acremont and Nursery