



# Dame Ellen Pinsent School

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Head Teacher Ms Denise Fountain

Chair of Governors Mr Andy Punch

16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents/carers,

We are so pleased to have welcomed back our pupils after the Summer break and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our 'Readiness to Learn' curriculum that is taking place across the school this half term.

We were aware that many of our children had not been in school for almost 6 months and that our pupils would have had very different experiences of lockdown. We came across some research by Barry Carpenter, an International Education Consultant, who stated that *'It would be naive to think that children will pick up where they left off on the day their school went into lockdown. We have been analysing the loss children have suffered during this time, and the potential anxiety and trauma it may cause, with significant impact on their ability to learn effectively'*.

As a result, we have implemented a bespoke curriculum that is tailored to individual or groups of children to ensure that they are ready to learn, whilst also addressing the impact that lockdown may have had on their mental health and wellbeing.

During this half term the Readiness to Learn Curriculum will cover the following areas:

**Getting to know you:** building relationships between home and school & finding out what motivates our children

**Learning:** PSHE daily - covering new social norms, hygiene, feelings, emotions & relationships, class rules. Promoting physical activity and health & wellbeing. Daily English & Maths lessons and a weekly opportunity to explore Science & Computing. Opportunities to take learning outdoors and limiting screen time.

**Assessment:** Class staff are providing creative learning opportunities to assess where each child is at in English, Maths & Science. Staff will also be baselining new children on appropriate frameworks and will begin to plan which reading scheme or route each child will start on next half term.

After half term you will receive a Curriculum newsletter from your class teacher explaining how the curriculum will look for your child following the Readiness to Learn curriculum.

We thank you for your continued support at such an unprecedented time and we are pleased to say that the children are doing incredibly well and are happy & settled.

Kind Regards

**Kerry Parker & Kate Gray**  
Assistant Head teachers  
Curriculum & Assessment leads



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Shine like a star