**23 February 2021**

**Dear CD Children, Mums, Dads and Carers,**

Everyone’s coming back!

We are all so happy and excited that the Prime Minister has announced that all children are to return to school on Monday 8 March and hope that you are too? I know that a lot of the adults you live with will certainly be pleased as being the teacher as well as the parent has been pretty tough!

I will give you more information closer to the return date regarding specific details but it is likely we will have similar arrangements to those which worked so successfully in the Autumn term; Darwin’s Den wraparound care will resume fully too.

Your teachers, teaching assistants and I all know that for some of you returning to school could be a bit worrying but don’t worry we will do everything we can to make things as happy, safe and fun as we possibly can.  Our main aim will be to help you all get settled back into school life and to enjoy spending time with your friends and school staff - this means we will not be bombarding you with “hard work” straight away! We will focus on the basics of phonics, reading and maths in the mornings and in the afternoons we have activities and projects planned which will give you plenty of time to chat and relax as you do fun and practical things.

Our school aim of “Reading, Relevance, Resilience – For All” has never been more appropriate than at this time! Reading is the key to unlocking all learning and getting on in life, relevance is about focusing on what is important and resilience is what you have all (including your adults) demonstrated brilliantly in the last 12 months and is essential as you continue to develop into positive and independent young people.

**Home learning**

The return to school means no more mass home learning from 8 March but please keep trying your best in the next week and a half until then; as I have said many times you and your parents / carers have done a superb job so far.

This week we will be encouraging the children to have a no device day over the weekend. We would like them to take this time to do something different, for example cooking, drawing or even a new activity. We would like children to send a picture of them completing what they are doing to jtilley@charlesdarwin.cheshire.sch.uk or lbilotta@charlesdarwin.cheshire.sch.uk and we will have a winner for infants and juniors.

**Those in school**

Can I remind parents of children currently attending school that pick up is at 3pm for infants (and elder siblings) and at 3.15pm for juniors. Please arrive on time.

**Writing competition**

I have been told of a **Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition** open to pupils aged between 8 and 18. Mother Tongue asks pupils, who do not have English as a first language, to write about a creative poem or song in their native language, while Other Tongue asks pupils to create an original poem in a second language they are learning at school (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Urdu and Mandarin).

**Entries need to be submitted by Wednesday 26th May 2021 and schools can only submit a maximum of six.** Please let me know if this is on interest to you and I will share the details.

Best wishes and thank you all once again for your superb support; my staff and I are really appreciative of all that you are doing and look forward to seeing our children properly again very soon.

Adam Croft