

**Ripponden Junior and Infant School**

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***Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lucy Taylor***

***“Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all”***

**Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth**

5th March 2021

Good afternoon all,

Just a quick note to say how much we are looking forward to welcoming all of the children back in on Monday.

Thank you to those parents who have completed the return to school survey. This really helps us to help the children settle back into school. If you haven't yet had the chance to complete it, the link is here -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=urQs3c-rmEmigJStcz9U8dWznFnwGX5OtwscyLf-TW1UOEhFN1Y3TEpVWkFWMkgyUTVDR1BVUFNGQi4u>

When reading the responses so far, the main concerns seem to be around parental guilt. Please, stop. You have done an incredible job in the most difficult of circumstances. Our whole philosophy last lockdown and this is that the children's mental health is the most important thing. If we get the children back happy, then it is a lot easier for us to 'work our magic' and they will continue to flourish. If children come back stressed, anxious and worried, we need to work on that first and foremost before the academic side to school. So, if you have loved, nurtured and cared for your children in the last few weeks, then you have done an amazing job and thank you.

I am aware that there will be some anxieties surrounding return to school and Open Minds Calderdale have produced some handy guides - one for parents and one for children answering some of the main areas of concern. I attach them both for your reference. 

There has been so much in the media about 'catch up' - well that phrase has been banned in our school. It puts such a negative connotation for the children, that they are somehow 'failing' before they start. We will be using phrases such as 'reconnect', 'regroup' and 'rise up to the challenge'. These are much more positive phrases and ones where all children will succeed, knowing that they can. Our whole Branch Out philosophy in action.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend, and I am looking forward to seeing you all and your fabulous children on Monday.

Kindest regards,

Lorraine Bamforth

Headteacher.