

*Resilience | Excellence | Determination*

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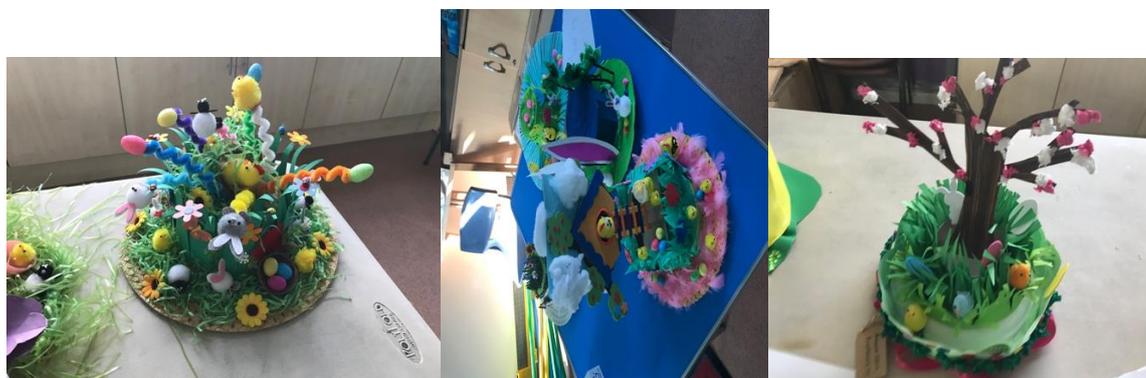
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the start of the summer term and I sincerely hope you enjoyed a peaceful and safe two weeks with your children.

**Easter fundraiser:**

Last term ended brilliantly with the highly successful Easter egg bonnet competition, parades and the egg hunts which the children enjoyed very much indeed. Thank you for your amazing support for this fund raiser in which the school managed to make just over £2,000 which will really help us in the ongoing improvements we are making to the Key Stage 2 playground for the children.



**(Photos of some of the amazing entries to the Easter bonnet competition)**

**Key Stage 2 playground improvement project:**

Over the Easter holidays the premises team were really busy painting the walls and making this area look much brighter and more children friendly which is the ultimate aim as well as to give the children more opportunities for stimulating play experiences. Once the wall painting has finished we will make a good start on the structural changes such as putting in sunken trampolines, bridges, climbing frames and other apparatus which was requested by the children in the autumn term survey and design competition we held with them. So literally, watch this space.

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### **The Big pedal initiative:**

I am hugely impressed with the amount of support for the Big Pedal initiative we are supporting as a school and it is great to see all the bikes and scooters coming into school every day. As a cyclist myself (mainly at the weekends these days) I know how important it is to teach children the value of health and fitness through cycling. It is also a great way to improve pollution as it is the greenest mode of transport apart from walking of course. On Friday of this week I will be bringing my bike into school to show the children that I too am a keen cyclist. I would dearly love to cycle to school on my bike but living where I do it is not possible, but I still want to support such a great initiative.

If you want to find out more and access some of the excellent activities please use the following link; [bigpedal.org.uk](http://bigpedal.org.uk)

### **Parent Consultations:**

Just a reminder parent consultations is this Friday when the teachers will take the opportunity to update you on your child's progress. Please remember they have all 30 parents to speak to so please try to stick to the 10-minute time slot. This will also be the last Friday of this academic year where we will need to close early. This is so we can facilitate these consultations. From next week, we will be back to normal finish times on Fridays (3.15pm for KS2 and 3.25pm for KS1 and Reception)

### **After school Football club is back:**

I am delighted that we have managed to bring after school football club back this week in a socially distanced and safe way and there have been no problems with this so far. We are watching this carefully with a view to bringing back more of the after-school clubs for the children as we know these were popular and well attended prior to the pandemic, but we will do this slowly and carefully to ensure everybody is kept safe whilst we are still in this period of slow recovery. I do though, expect to open this up more as soon as we are able to.

### **Polling Day:**

The school will be closed on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** for the local election which is something we had no control over. Indeed, I did ask that the authorities look for a venue elsewhere but was told that this was the only viable venue for the polling to take place. It is disappointing for me having already had to close the school for long periods because of COVID this year that we now have to do this. Class teachers will be posting work on Goggle classroom should families wish to complete this with their child.

### **Redbridge Food Bank:**

Huge thank you from all of us at the school for your kind donations for the Redbridge Food Bank. All donations were taken and dropped off to them during the Easter holidays and they were overwhelmed and wanted us to express their heart-felt thanks to you. Please feel free to continue donating as we want to continue this charitable work as a community school.

### **Interventions to close the Covid-19 learning gaps:**

Next week we will start our programme of interventions and gap closure. Having assessed where the children are at in terms of their learning and analysed this with all teaching teams, we are now able to start to address some of the issues in Reading, Writing, and Maths. We are taking the view that this is necessary now as we do need to start addressing specific gaps with targeted groups of children and getting them back on track.

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I want to reassure you that the children will be taken out in small groups and will work in well ventilated, large spaces to ensure that they are kept safe and the risk of transmission is mitigated. All groups will be taught by a qualified class teacher to ensure that the children make the necessary progress.

**Eid celebrations:**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim families Ramadan Mubarak.

To celebrate Eid and the diversity of cultures at Redbridge Primary School this year, on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May** we will be holding a celebration of Eid event. This will include children dressing up, bringing in party food, designing a prayer mat competition, having ice lollies and purchasing food from our food stalls which will be set up in the playground. More details of this will be sent out nearer to the day.

20% of all money raised through the event will go to a registered Muslim Aid charity which was established in the UK in 1985 and the remaining amount will again be used for the KS2 playground improvement project.

**Continuing to keep everybody safe:**

Finally, thank-you for your continued support for the school and the safety protocols we have implemented to ensure that everybody in our community is kept safe. Despite the easing of some restrictions by the government we are still strictly adhering to the safety measures as these have proved to be very successful in keeping children, staff and yourselves safe whilst on the school site. This means face coverings are still expected, the one-way system still needs to be followed and continue to ask that you socially distance whilst on school premises. The staff and children are all keeping to the rules and I am delighted that since the 8<sup>th</sup> March when we reopened the school to all children again we have had zero cases of COVID-19 reported to us.

**Finally:**

I am very much looking forward to another busy, full on but enjoyable term at Redbridge and to making sure that we maximise all the learning time for our children to ensure they all catch up on any lost ground caused by the pandemic.

I continue to remain very proud to call myself the Head Teacher of such a wonderful, hard- working and committed community-based school.

Best wishes and please keep safe.

Steve Davies (Head Teacher)

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