



Alameda Middle School

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5th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to send you a short update after the first day of our new term. It has been great to see all of our staff in school today both supporting the children at home with their learning and also working with the vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers who are in school.

I would like to thank the many parents and carers who have taken the time to contact us today to thank our teachers for the efforts they have put into their support with home learning. Those who do not work in schools may be surprised to learn that teachers and other school staff often feel a little nervous on the night before term starts. For teachers in years 5 and 6, when they woke up yesterday, the final day of the Christmas holiday, they were expecting to be teaching their classes in school today. By the end of yesterday, things had changed considerably as you will be aware. I have been impressed with the way they have adapted so quickly to the situation. Of course, those teaching years 7 and 8 were already expecting online teaching for the majority, but day one of these new ways of working would always have been a little daunting.

The children in school today have absolutely amazed me with their positivity and keenness to learn. The highlight has, however, been seeing the children at home engaging with their learning as I have visited classrooms where teachers have been working.

I know that many of you have been keen to see your child's timetable which is understandable. We had hoped to post these yesterday, so I apologise for the delay and I can confirm that they will appear on Edulink later this evening.

I would like to thank pupils, parents and carers who have been so patient with the inevitable first day glitches with technology. I know that our staff have worked to try to rectify these issues and I would like to thank you for your kindness and for remembering that our teachers are all human and are trying their best. I know that you are too, and appreciate how challenging it can be at home, particularly for working parents.

Some of your kind messages today have been really touching, may I also say well done to you for adapting so quickly as I know many of you were expecting your children to be in school as usual until yesterday lunchtime. Of course, the final mention must go to the children for being brilliant as ever. Thank you all.

Our year leaders have written messages to their year groups with some more information about lesson timings, home learning and a reminder that we are here to support you.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Warner
Headteacher