



Friday 12th February

Dear parents and guardians

I hope this letter finds you and your family well following another busy half term.

It is our understanding that schools will receive **guidance** on 22nd February regarding the possible end of 'school closure'. The Government has given assurances that notice of two weeks will be given prior to any future changes, so one could hazard a guess this date has been set because it is two weeks before the first possible reopening date of Monday 8th March.

If new guidance is provided on Monday 22nd February, we will communicate our response as soon as possible thereafter. Please keep an eye out for emails and texts from school during that week and information will be also be available on www.appledore-primary.co.uk

Whilst the government has publicised the **cancellation** of SATs and other central government nationally set tests this year, Devon County Council has consulted with Devon primary schools this week to agree a consistent assessment reporting programme for the county.

This year the children will take the various tests as per a normal year. The difference this year is that the results will not be submitted to the Department for Education, just to Devon County Council. The dates for the tests have not been confirmed yet, but it is likely it will be similar to previous pre-COVID years. We will confirm the dates for the tests when there is clarity.

To confirm, the following assessments will be conducted before the end of this academic year:

Reception Early Years Profile

Year 1 phonics test

Year 2 phonics retest

Year 2 SATs – maths and reading test and writing teacher assessment

Year 6 SATs - maths and reading test and writing teacher assessment

All other years and subject areas will be assessed using our usual assessment programme. Annual school reports for all children will be available in the summer term and the usual transition information will be provided to the secondary schools of our Year 6 transition for their start in September 2021.

Whilst there appears to be greater optimism and hope for next half term, we must continue to ensure we do what we can to remain safe.

Teachers continue to be tested twice a week and we remind you to inform us if your child shows any symptoms that could signify possible infection from Covid-19. Such information is vital for us to ensure we take measures to ensure children and staff remain safe. **If your child displays any symptoms on Saturday 13th February or Sunday 14th February**, please contact me immediately on jeremy.cooper@appledoreprimary.co.uk with a contact number I can reach you. This is very important for us to determine if we need to inform other families to isolate their children.

Similarly, please monitor your child's health before our return on Monday February 22nd and inform us of any concerns you have or a likely absence.

Thank you for your understanding and support this half term and we look forward to seeing you again next term.

Best wishes

Jeremy Cooper

Headteacher