

Thursday 11 June 2020

Dear Parents

### **RE. Update regarding opening of schools**

I'm sure that many of you have heard the announcement from the Government, backtracking their ambition that all primary age children will return to school before the end of the summer term. Whilst I agree that this is a sensible decision, due to the logistics of how this would have worked safely, it is news which is met with great disappointment. The realisation that we will not be seeing some of our children before September at the earliest is a huge blow and we share the concerns of others in respect of how this prolonged period away from school will impact on the children.

Since we have heard this news for the first time on Tuesday, we will need some time to digest this announcement and adapt our plans for the remainder of the term. I am very pleased that our start to this half term has worked so well and, despite many schools either not opening, only opening to a couple of year groups, or opening part time to the selected year groups, we already have our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 bubbles in full time. This is in addition to our critical worker and vulnerable children bubbles, which have steadily increased in size over the course of the term. It has been so lovely to hear children's laughter filling our school again; the children have been so happy to be back.

### **Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and critical worker family children**

If you do have a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6, or you are a critical worker and have indicated previously that you do not wish for your child to come to school, but have subsequently decided that you would like your child to attend, then please email the school office by **Monday 15 June** and let us know. We may not be able to accommodate your child immediately, as we will have to check the numbers we have in our bubbles, as we cannot have more than 15. You will be notified whether your child can attend as soon as possible. If we have requests from parents after this date we may **NOT** be able to accommodate your child.

Please also note, your child will not necessarily be with their class teacher, in their usual classroom or be with any of their friends or even children from their own class. We will simply place children in bubbles with the least number of children, in line with our health and safety measures. Most of our bubbles are now either full or nearly full.

In light of the need for children to behave differently when they return to school, we have updated our behaviour policy to reflect the new rules, routines and to outline our expectations. These will be shared with the children when they are in school to ensure that they are understood and adhered to. Please refer to the [Behaviour Guidelines, Coronavirus Appendix](#) for more information.

### **Planning ahead**

As we plan ahead we will be considering the following:

- Reviewing our risk assessment to identify whether we have any capacity to offer further provision to **specific** children from additional year groups.
- Transition arrangements for all classes, especially the bespoke arrangements we need to put in place for our children with additional needs. This will obviously include informing everyone of class teachers for next year.
- Discussing options for the children's return in September. Whilst at this point we do not know what this will look like, we will undoubtedly plan for different scenarios.

I feel that this last point is extremely important and I know school staff feel the same. We are well aware of the potential impact on many children during and after this time, both in terms of attainment and also emotional health and wellbeing. We will re-assess each child upon their return to school (using teacher assessment and discussions with children, rather than an overload of tests) and find out exactly where they are with their learning. The curriculum will be adapted accordingly and work will be set to best support each child's progress. Our teaching staff are highly skilled at this and I know they will be totally committed to getting children back on track.

As always, we will share information as soon as we can; thank you all for your patience and consideration. I would also like to thank you all for your support during this time. We appreciate every single message or comment of appreciation - it means a lot to us, as all the staff are working tirelessly to support you all.

With my very best wishes to you and your family.

Tijen Hassan  
**Headteacher**