

26th June 2020

Dear Parents

As you will be aware from my previous correspondence, we have been working hard to welcome children from Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children back to school. We now have fifty Year 6 and forty Year 1 children in school for four days a week. On Monday, they will be joined by thirty-one Reception children. We also of course continue our provision for key workers' children. This means that a total of 160 children will be in school by next week.

Making all that happen whilst conscientiously observing the Government's safety measures has been extremely challenging – and would not have been possible without a great deal of creative effort and flexibility from all the staff. I would like to record my gratitude to them – and also to the children and you, their parents, who have shown admirable cooperation and good humour in adapting to the new restrictions and ways of working.

There are still 260 children who have not been in the school since 20th March. Staff and Governors share my concern that this is deeply unsatisfactory and that we should explore how to give those children some experience of being back before the summer break. I have, therefore, been working on a plan for them to return for one day in the final week of term. This will give them an opportunity to meet the class teacher and teaching assistant with whom they will be working in the autumn term and be introduced to the safety measures and procedures, such as social distancing and frequent hand washing, which are currently in force – and still may be in September.

I must emphasise that, at the moment, we do not know exactly what sort of provision will be possible in September. The Government has made clear that it wants all children to be back in school by then, but it has not yet announced how and when the current safety measures will be relaxed. Without a very substantial relaxation, particularly of the maximum size of segregated “bubbles”, we simply would not be able to accommodate all 420 children full time. I understand that the Department for Education (DfE) intends to publish details next week of how the start of the new school year will be managed. When it does so I shall finalise our plans for the return to school in the autumn and write to you again. Obviously, we hope fervently that we shall be welcoming all the children back on a full-time basis but, until we receive our directions from the DfE, we cannot take that for granted and must continue to plan for alternative scenarios. Whatever happens, children will be spending at least some time in school on a regular basis and will be taught by their new teachers, so the ‘induction’ day I am proposing for the end of this term will be a valuable means of smoothing the transition.

The plan is that Year 6 children will finish school on Tuesday 14th July. That will leave the majority of our classrooms available for use by other year groups.

I have divided each class into two groups, A and B, essentially the first and second fifteen in the register, but with some tweaking so that all siblings would come on the same day. Group A would attend on Wednesday 15th July and Group B on Thursday 16th July.

The children in Reception and Year 1 would all attend Monday to Thursday as normal in that week and the normal provision for children of key workers would still continue. We would, however, take those children out of their current “bubbles” to spend the day with their new class teacher. We will inform every family whether they are A or B so you know what day this will be happening. Every room will be thoroughly sanitised each day before being used by a new group of children.

An email will be sent early next week to inform you of your child's group and drop-off and collection times; these will be staggered to facilitate the social-distancing measures. The email will

ask you to confirm whether or not your child will be attending on their allocated day and whether they will need a school packed lunch.

All the staff and I are really looking forward to seeing as many children as possible on 15th and 16th July.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste

Headteacher