

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you have been keeping up with the daily government updates about primary schools and for those of you with children in year groups not in school at present, I am sure the news that schools will not be reopening to more children came as a huge disappointment. We understand and share your disappointment as we really had hoped to have everyone back before the summer holidays.

When schools were first asked to reopen on 1st June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, we as a school had to make plans with very little notice and with guidance that changed on a daily basis from the government, constantly moving the goalposts and what was required from us. We have done our absolute best to do what has been asked of us in very challenging circumstances, and I am very pleased that we were able to get such high numbers of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children back full time. This is largely due to having a fantastic team of staff who have willingly and enthusiastically returned to work, despite much of society and most workers in other industries being told to continue to stay at home or to work socially distancing due to the risks of covid-19.

The initial model for the phased return of pupils would not have been our choice of approach, as we are acutely aware of how unfair this has been in terms of the provision offered to different year groups.

Despite being told that all groups do not have to return before the summer, we have capacity to be able to have Year 5 back from Monday 22nd June. Year 5 will be taught in two bubbles: one by their teacher Catherine, and the other by Sue and Sam (who is returning from maternity leave) both of whom have taught this class previously. There are a number of reasons why we as a leadership team have decided on this year group, following our constant assessment of needs and our risk assessments. In addition to this, they only have one year left in primary school to catch up on the schooling they have missed due to Covid-19. We will write to Year 5 parents next week with the details of timings etc.

We had also hoped that we might be able to have Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 back for one week at the end of term in order for them to spend some time together and have an ending to their year with their class teachers. Sadly, despite our best efforts, this will not be possible. This is because we are not allowed to have teachers who are working in one bubble moving to another bubble (without taking two weeks off work in between to ensure no risk of potentially passing the infection between groups), and all our staff are currently working in the bubbles we have in school.

We have throughout this lockdown period supported a number of families who are key workers as well as children who could be considered under the 'vulnerable' category (children who have a social worker, an Education Health Care Plan, or anyone else that the Headteacher believes may be vulnerable) and this support has included having some of these children in school each day. Many families have not taken us up on this offer, which we completely understand due to their concerns about the Coronavirus, and we are

continuing to offer this to more children in Nursery, Year 2, 3 and 4. If we have not contacted you, and you believe that your child may fall within this 'vulnerable' category or you are a Key Worker, please contact me at school.

Please remember to send in the photos of your child reading (as mentioned in the assembly video) by midday Monday if you are happy for them to be included in next week's video.

Thank you for your continued support. We are missing you all and can't wait to hopefully have you all back in September. School is not the same without you all.

Many Thanks,

Andrew