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Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are having a good summer break and have managed to take advantage of the good weather. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 5th September.

I am writing to all parents to update you on an incident which occurred in school a few weeks ago. On Friday 29th July, a small fire broke down in one of the Year R classrooms. Thankfully, this was quickly identified by the Buzzer's Holiday Club and they followed the appropriate procedures, evacuating the children and calling the Fire & Rescue Service, who quickly brought the fire under control.

Most importantly, no one was hurt or injured.

I am sure that parents will have questions as to the cause of the fire. The forensic officer found no evidence of external factors and the prevailing theory is that this was caused by intensive sunlight through the window.

Despite the fire being relatively small, there has been extensive damage caused by the smoke and soot and, as a result, the Year R classrooms will not be ready to be used whilst they undergo specialist cleaning to ensure that all contaminants are removed, all repair works undertaken and the rooms are redecorated.

It is planned that all these works will be completed within the first two weeks of term and therefore the Year R children will be able to 'move into' their classrooms on Monday 19th September.

In the interim, we will be placing the Year R children in the Year 6 classrooms as they are the closest available and also means that there is easy access to the appropriate toilets, the playground and the outside learning area.

The Year 6 children will primarily be based in the school hall for the first two weeks of term although we will be utilising other spaces around the school such as the IT Suite, The Den, the Forest School area and, when available, other classrooms.

### New Year R children

The Year 6 classrooms are the rooms which face the small playground as you enter the side gate. Staff will be on hand to welcome children as normal.

### Year 6 and the Kent Test

I don't doubt that there will be concerns about the impact of this on the children's performance in the Kent Test. As you know, we separate children out so that some children take the test in the school hall, some in the classrooms, etc. With the Year 6 classrooms unavailable, we are planning on using one or both of the Year 5 classrooms to ensure that the children are working in an environment which is familiar to them.

Those children who would be working with access arrangements will still receive these.



### Year 5 Classes

On the day of the Kent Test (Thursday 8th September), the Year 6 children will be using their old classrooms. We are planning to have an Outdoor Learning Day for the Year 5 children to facilitate this and more details will be provided next week.

### Impact on School Meals

As the hall will be being used for Year 6 teaching, we will have a smaller area of the hall for the provision of school lunches. Whilst we will still provide meals, it would be extremely helpful if parents could provide a packed lunch for their children for the first two weeks. If this is not feasible, then please do not worry.

### Thanks

This is obviously not an ideal situation we find ourselves in. I am extremely grateful for the quick actions of Elliot (Buzzer's Holiday Club) without which, the damage would have been a great deal more extensive. I would also like to highlight the efforts of our Site Manager, Stephen Fawke, who has been working tirelessly and even cancelled some of his annual leave.

We hope that this will not cause too much disruption to the beginning of term but if you do have any questions, please do feel free to contact me via email.

I will be writing to parents again next week.

With best wishes,



James Tibbles