

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We hope you have all had an enjoyable half term break. We are now in the final part of this academic year. We could never have imagined our year would turn out as it has done, particularly as we look at our school diary and see many events, trips and school journeys which would have occurred at this time. We hope you and the children are enjoying the videos of staff uploaded onto the year group Google pages.

We have been delighted to see the return of our Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children. We thank all staff for their incredible organisation and commitment in ensuring the children returned immediately after the half term break. It has been a mammoth task but worth the effort when seeing the smiles on the children's faces as they come into school each day.

The school day has been set up to ensure the safety of staff and children in several ways. Social distancing and health and safety measures have been successful. Each group of children (Pod) have a consistent member of staff with them all day to ensure there is no cross contamination. The key challenge has been in the lunch hall, as each small pod of children have lunch separate to others, with sanitisation taking place ready for the next pod. As a result, we now have ensured that infant pods have their lunches in class and junior pods have theirs in the school hall so that all children are receiving their lunches in a timely manner.

In our letter on 19th May, we stated that this arrangement would take us up to 26th June and we would review the pods for the next stage in July, with no additional children beyond secured numbers from the last survey. During this week, we have had further requests for children to return to school and unfortunately, we have not been able to admit these children, unless an existing child releases a place. It is important to understand that the pods have a limit, due to social distancing, staffing and health and safety measures. Therefore, we must book children in advance by releasing our surveys in phases. We do understand the frustration which returning to work can bring, particularly as this is often unplanned and sudden. Generally childcare is the alternative option where the school has no place available in the pods.

We ask parents with children in the key worker/identified families pods to let us know any days your child cannot attend, as this releases places for other children from these groups to attend. These are the only pods with flexibility as they do not operate on alternate weeks.

We also ask parents of children attending school to avoid cross contamination of their children outside school. This would increase risks which we have worked very hard in school to avoid. We also thank parents and carers for being so considerate at dropping off and collection times by observing social distancing after pick up/drop off and moving on from school swiftly.

As for the rest of our families who are remaining at home, we hope the children enjoy the remaining weeks of home learning. We await further decisions from the government at the end of the month in relation to what the next stage of planning is for our schools.

Thanks again for your continuing support, understanding and communication.

Kind regards,

Mrs J. Connery
Co-Headteacher

Mr R.M. Coyle
Co-Headteacher

'We have an unexpected reserve of strength inside that emerges when life puts us to the test.'

Isabelle Allende