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EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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Friday 26th June 2020

Dear parents/carers

As you know at the beginning of term 6 we began expanding our numbers from keyworkers and vulnerable children to the government prioritised year groups. In recent weeks with more keyworkers returning we have had a large increase in demands on spaces in the school.

As headteacher and governors we conducted a thorough risk assessment about how to open bubbles safely for the children, families and staff in line with Department of Education (DfE) and local education authority guidelines. We have reviewed this risk assessment weekly. Since 1st June all staff have been in school full time to enable this to happen and then setting home learning on top of this.

With new government laws coming into effect from the Saturday 4th July we have reviewed our risk assessment and we will be able to offer further spaces from **Monday 6th July 2020**. As explained in Mrs Moss' previous letter we have been creating a waiting list for children who require a space. Some parents have queried if they are able to share a place with another child (e.g. one child does 2 days and another does 3 days) under current guidelines this still counts as 2 children in that bubble so does not create additional spaces. However, with the adaptations to our risk assessment from 6th July we have created a number of additional spaces for keyworker and vulnerable children across different bubbles. Sadly, this does not however meet the need of all the spaces requested by parents.

Our order of priority has remained:

- Vulnerable (by DfE definition)
- Keyworker children (by DfE definition)
- Position on the waiting list
- Year R
- Year 1

You will be contacted on **Monday 29th June** to inform you if you have a place in the provision and when it starts.

We understand that if you are not able to get a space, this may place an additional burden on you when you have been requested to return to work. Unfortunately, as

headteacher and governors we have to follow the recommendations when completing our risk assessment. We as a small school, have limited staff and teaching space and we are restricted by this. This is a problem many other local small schools are finding too. If, however there is further directive or information from the government that allows us to increase capacity safely we will review our plans again and inform you.

What this means for transition:

We will be firming up our plans for transition for all children over the next two weeks and we will let you know. At present the government intention is for all children to return in September.

What this means for Year 6:

Year 6 will receive a special letter outlining their transition next week. Unfortunately, we will not be able to open to them in term 6.

What this means for other year groups:

Your current class teachers will still continue to set you learning on class dojo, they will reply to your messages and emails once they have finished their class teaching. Thought of the Day and stories will still be uploaded onto YouTube.

Symptoms and Ill Health

For any child in school we must remind you-

If your child or any member of your household presents one of the following symptoms:

- High temperature
- A new continuous cough
- Difficulty breathing
- A loss or change to their sense of smell or taste.

You must stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days from when their symptoms started or until you receive a negative test result. Anyone in your house who does not have symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days from when the first person in your home started having symptoms.

Your child and you must also stay at home if:

- you're waiting for a coronavirus test result
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms, is waiting for a test result or has tested positive

You must also follow any guidelines given by the NHS track and trace.

The inset days that were delayed due to the school remaining open for keyworkers and vulnerable children will be taken at the end of the academic year. Therefore the last day the school will be open to the children in the bubbles is **Monday 20th July**.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries. We hope we are a little closer to the school expanding to welcome all children in September. We miss each and every one of you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SMOSS" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Moss
Headteacher

S. Booth

Steve Booth
Chair of Governors