



## Wallace Fields Junior School

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### Wallace Fields Junior School update 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Year 6 and Key Workers:** The school continues to follow government guidelines and we have been open with key Worker children from March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020. The Year 6 were expected to return in June and we now have several groups of no more than 15 in the school. The children follow specific timetables and there are activities and sessions following the same things that are planned for their year group peers and school is a very different version of what it was before, with eating, playing and working all within same small group. The school is now full up and the key worker group has grown and is now running at full capacity. I have contacted Surrey County Council to seek advice on how we might accommodate any future rise in key worker children and am awaiting a response.

If you are a key worker parent now required for work – please contact the office and we will try to assist you in finding a place for your child, but please be aware that they will very likely not be with their teacher or their friends as was suggested in the national announcements. If there is no more room in the school we will be seeking placement in an alternative school that has more classrooms.

The Year 6 teachers Mr Hurd and Mrs Clayton are both in school and so Miss Anderson is fulfilling the online support for the remaining Year 6 doing home learning.

**Online Learning Provision:** The staff have been working very hard on ensuring that the children have tasks to complete, including online tasks and a majority of offline tasks. Unfortunately the expansion of school following government guidelines has meant that the teaching staff need to be in school now to teach and cover every other week, whilst their year group colleague maintains the online provision.

The children can be seen engaging in hive games and online competitions and they have also been submitting the results for their projects and completed tasks. These have been great to see and the teachers have been really impressed with the high level of effort and detail the children have been putting in.

The class teachers not teaching in school are allocated to checking in with the children every morning and running hive games. The teachers are checking in on all children to ensure they are doing something online (the amount is determined by you the parents) and if they are not engaging then the teacher will contact you by telephone or email. There is no longer an expectation as to the amount of tasks your child submits but they must submit at least one piece of work online (in addition to the online activities such as Spelling Shed or Times tables Rock Stars). The teachers will



not be assessing or individually marking each piece. Teachers are leaving a generic comment to their class in a central folder that the whole group can access. There is good parallel practice and Year 3 are adapting their comments into a central area so pupils can find the comments much more easily.

Safeguarding is a key element of online practice and so the emailing via their Google classroom has been deliberately disabled to ensure inappropriate messages cannot be sent around from child to child.

The children sharing their work comes in different forms – some email their teacher and some post comments on the various platforms they use. This makes it a long job for the teacher to track and check on pupils work but they are doing it. For this reason, we are now widening the checking time to a fortnight so the class teacher has time to teach a class and then in the week they are not in school they can follow up those children that are not engaging.

Thank you to all you parents who are using the resources and tasks set and for supporting your children at home. We realise that the classroom cannot be replicated at home but by getting into a routine of logging in, reading comments, checking tasks and then completing what is achievable they are getting a balanced amount of learning and meaningful engagement. Physical activity and creative tasks also need a focus in their day and ideas and challenges are being sent out all the time.

**Summer Provision:** The government announcement regarding the creation of summer school catch up provision was made this week. No consultation was made on this and no details were given to schools and so at this time I am unable to comment on what the government is promising parents before I can tell you what is actually feasible in school. I will of course be looking at the detail in the coming week.

**Thanks:** I would like to thank parents and carers and also a mention of thanks to the staff for their efforts. Thanks also to those parents who have sent in such positive feedback and who are pleased with the careful balance of tasks and activities being set. Staff here are putting themselves on the frontline and the majority of them have been working all the way through since March 2020. We are all suffering similar frustrations with the ongoing challenges and by continuing to work together we can hopefully continue to find a way forward during the pandemic.

Kind regards

Mr Steve Lee

Head Teacher

