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Important Update on School Places and Home Learning Developments 18.06.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you just to provide you with an update on where we are with our partial re-opening to some year groups and also what we are doing for those of you who are still completing the learning with your child/ren at home.

Nursery and Year 6 Bubbles

We are pleased to report that we have been successful in welcoming back some of our Nursery and Year 6 pupils this week to the specific year group bubbles that we have set up for them. These are so far working well and children in school are being good at adhering to our one-way system moving around the building they are working in and remembering to maintain some social distancing as required.

Key Worker Bubbles

The children in our Key Worker Bubbles are also now completing more focussed schoolwork and requests for these places have meant quite a large swell in numbers qualifying for these which, in line with Government guidance, we are having to accommodate as a priority. The size and number of these places that are required will impact on what we feel we can safely offer to any other year groups to try to open further. We will obviously keep you posted on this situation.

F2 (Reception) Bubbles

So, balancing this alongside the number of weeks left until the Summer Vacation period we have decided to open up our F2 (Reception) Bubble earlier than we originally had planned and letters have gone out about this to eligible pupils this week and places are now confirmed. These children will be starting back at school as from Monday 22.06.2020.

Any new requests for School Places

Please be aware that for any new request we receive for a school place now, you will be required to wait up to a week for this to commence to enable us to sort staffing and accommodations requirements out in line with our risk assessment. You will receive a letter explaining more details if a place is able to be offered.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

Due to now having some of our F2 pupils start back next week we have opened our school kitchen again in order to provide a free UIFSM packed lunch for all children attending school who are in F2, Year 1 or Year 2. This includes our eligible Key Worker Bubble children. All Key Stage 2 pupil attending school are still required to bring their own packed lunch as they have been. **All children in school still need to bring their own drink bottle.** Packed lunch bags and drink bottles need to be taken home each day and cleaned thoroughly. A small snack can be brought by pupils into school such as a piece of fruit, a wrapped biscuit, a wrapped breakfast bar, box of raisins, etc. **No personal items from home other than a lunchbox, drink bottle and small snack are allowed in school.**



Home Learning Developments

As you may already be aware, we are now stepping up our approach to home learning and introducing some of our lessons and input by our own teaching staff onto our Microsoft TEAMS system. Most children (and their parents) are being provided logins and instructions for how to use this and this has so far been rolled out to F2, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. Each of those year groups have been set assignments with various video instructions, resources and electronic links provided.

A team of staff have also carried out regular phone-calls home to all our children not in school to try to provide some contact and support to you all in terms of well-being and also with the work being set for children to complete at home.

Through both avenues we have had increased engagement in the contact we have then received on class emails and this is really positive. One of the key things we have noted this week in particular from our children now joining us in school is the increased time they are needing in the lessons they are receiving for them to complete work, which will be a direct result of getting back into a good learning routine. This concerns us greatly as it magnifies the increasing gaps in learning many of our children will have due to the closure period and especially for those who haven't been accessing much, or any, of the home learning activities we have been providing.

We have always tried to keep in mind the well-being of you as parents coping at home with your children within this pandemic. We have provided lots of work and activities that can be completed by the whole family to try to support this. Unlike other schools we have not sent you strict timetabling to adhere to or daily deadlines to return completed work to us by because we remain acutely aware of the pressure this places on a great many of you. We have encouraged all children and parents to complete some of the work but have not insisted this was compulsory or chased uncompleted tasks up from you.

However, as it looks increasingly likely that a return to school for all children will not be able to take place until at least Autumn Term, which is still unconfirmed by the Government yet, we do now need to be more robust in our approach and expectations in ensuring children who are at home are completing some key learning tasks **every day** and returning these to school by a weekly deadline. We appreciate the issues some of you are experiencing with lack of technology or internet access and are discussing different options for this currently which we will write out about soon. This is also something the Government are due to be announcing plans around as well soon which will hopefully add some support to our own as a school.

Last but by no means least

Yet again we need to say that we are completely overwhelmed with the incredible support you continue to give to your own children and to us as a school staff. We have received some really lovely emails, messages, phone calls not to mention treats for the staff and children in school over the past weeks which have made everyone feel very valued and given us a greater sense of team in all we are trying to achieve **with you** for all for your children. You have been **wonderfully, awesomely, fantastic** in all you have tackled and, in your communication and interaction with us.

Please know that we are truly grateful to be in this challenging situation at a school where it is very clear that in our school community, people really do matter.

Thank you all. Please continue to try to stay safe and happy as much as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Davies
Executive Headteacher



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Head of School