

Thursday 25th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We were so pleased to welcome back some of our year 6 this week to school. The school still seems very quiet and with people not using the corridors or staff room, the atmosphere is very different.

Up to this point, a lot of my correspondence has been around the arrangements for getting back EYFS, year 1 and year 6. However, we have not forgotten about all the other year groups. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any more year groups now before September. We have every room in use. The information below will outline support and transition for all our children.

**Review of Bubbles**

We said that we would review whether we could extend the day for the Reception and year 1 children after a couple of weeks. This is not going to be possible for a number of reasons and the timetable will remain the same until the end of term. I know the children have settled really well but feedback from staff is also that they are exhausted by the end of the morning. Please appreciate that this is a very unusual situation in school – where they would usually be playing together and carrying out child-initiated learning, they are having to sit in one room, at their own desk the whole time. Maintaining social distancing is hard for them and they are concentrating very hard in school to do this. At such a young age, it is hard to sustain this for a whole day.

We have also taken into account the staff when setting up this timetable. Many of our key stage one staff are part time and working full time would take them over their contracted hours. Staff we would usually have used are either shielding or teaching the keyworker bubble. The teachers are still providing work for the children at home who have chosen not to come back and work for the children in years 2, 3, 4, 5 in addition to the live teaching. At the end of each morning in their bubble, they have to stay and disinfect all the equipment that has been used, then begin work responding to the rest of the class at home. Just like yourselves, many of our staff have children of their own who they have to home-school as well as come to work.

We do appreciate that it is inconvenient for some of you that your child does a half day, but we have had to get a ‘best fit’, putting children and staff first.

Due to the fact that we are very close to capacity, we have set a **cut off point** for coming back to school for keyworkers and R, 1 and 6 children. You must let us know by **Wednesday 1st July**, and then your child would be able to join a bubble on Monday 6th July. After this date, we will not be taking any new children into school.

**Transition**

For the children at home, whichever year group it is, your current teacher will continue to set you work to do at home and talk to via dojo or zoom. Your new teacher will be sending you a little video message shortly to say hello and tell you a bit about what to expect in September. It looks like we will all be coming back together in September if the virus continues to decline. There will be a new starter video on the ‘Joining’ page of the school website for our families whose child is starting in Reception class with us.

For all the children, we know September will be very different for them and it will take a while to adjust after such a long period of time at home. The teachers know this and will carefully plan PSHE, well-being and social skills activities to weave in for as long as necessary. The curriculum will be adjusted to what the children need and to assess where they are since we saw them. Please do not worry that your child will be at a disadvantage if they are still at home; we will concentrate on the essential elements to begin with to close any gaps. We are also told there will be funding to support ‘catch-up’ programmes which will utilise to support our children through small group work, extra TAs or suchlike. The work you and your children have been doing at home is phenomenal, so you should be so proud of how you have helped them. We do not have any plans to be open during the summer holidays. If we can access any funding, this will be used during the academic year.

The fact that some children will remain with this year’s teacher will be very advantageous, as the relationships are already built. We hope this will be reassuring for you.

**New classes**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Teacher | class | Year group | Total number of children |  |
| Jodie + Fran | Snow leopards | nursery | Approx 8 per session  |  |
| Mrs Turner | Panda | **Rec** (10) / **year 1** (18) | 28 |  |
| Mrs Crowe | Tiger | **Yr 2** (15) **3** (12) | 27 |  |
| Mr Glover | Rhino | **Yr 4** (22) | 22 |  |
| Mr Hughes | Jaguar | **5** (11) **6** (18) | 29 |  |
|  |  |   |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

I hope that your child can start to get excited about their new year group now that they know who they will have. As I said before, the new teachers will make contact with you all in the next couple of weeks so that you can get to know them too.

**Reports**

The end of year school reports will look slightly different this year, but we wanted to make sure you still received one. Your children have all worked so hard throughout this and we want to praise them for that. The reports will have a general comment and some targets for maths and English. You may feel that you have already worked on the target during lockdown, or it may be something you can address before the children come back in September.

The reports will be sent to you digitally on Friday 3rd July. If you usually receive two copies of your school report, you can either share it digitally yourself, or if this is not possible, please can you email the school office with details of the other parent or carer’s email address so that we can send them a copy.

**Dates to remember**

**1.7.20** Cut-off date for joining a bubble

**16.7.20** Last day of term

**17.7.20** PD day – school closed for all Bubbles including keyworkers.

We thank you for your on-going support throughout this pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C. Williams

Executive Headteacher