



May 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Dear Parents and Carers of children in Years 2 - 6

I wanted to write to you to explain the changes that will be happening over the coming weeks.

You will have seen on the news that the Government have now said that Reception, years 1 and 6 can be phased back into school from June 1<sup>st</sup>.

I have written to parents and carers who have children in those year groups explaining how this will happen. Of course, like us you will be wondering when school may be open for our remaining students and at present we are unable to answer that question. We are longing for school to be fully operational again and understand how difficult it is for parents at home, many of whom are also having to work full time as well as support their children's learning.

What you can be assured of is that we will continue to provide a range of learning opportunities for children who are still at home and remain in touch with families and students through weekly or two weekly phone calls. Teachers are very happy to speak to children as part of these calls and put in place expectations when children are struggling to engage. We have been doing this with many families when they have let us know that things are difficult and feedback has been very positive. Please let us know if you are experiencing particular problems that we can help with.

In common with many schools we have decided not to teach lessons via zoom. However, our teachers have been working tirelessly in school teaching our growing number of key worker and vulnerable children, including through the Easter holiday and the upcoming half term break. They have also worked at home planning and resourcing learning packs and keeping in touch with parents and children through emails and phone calls. We have had staff delivering learning packs by hand, helping out with food bank deliveries when needed and taking on cleaning duties at school; it has been a very busy time and every school has supported families in different ways. Many of our teachers also have their own families who they in turn are supporting with learning.

We know many of our families are linking together to enable the children to talk to each other socially which is fantastic and will definitely contribute to children's sense of well-being. If you have been unable to link your child to a group within the class, please let us know and we will pass contact details over to parents we know have been involved in setting up these social get-togethers. We have been able to do this where parents have asked.

From the week beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be holding some oracy assemblies via zoom for each class. I will do this with half-classes initially. I will send out details and times at the beginning of the week. If you don't want your child to take part that is fine.

The last few weeks have been so challenging to everyone; parents supporting children at home, teachers supporting families from school and for children themselves as they adjust to the restrictions that lock down has brought. It has been so good to talk to many of you when you have popped in to collect learning packs or just to have a quick chat as part of your daily exercise. Thank you for your kind and supportive words. We have greatly appreciated them. It has been good to see your children too when you have brought them along. Finally, we have also been overwhelmed by the fantastic photographs so many of you have continued to send in regularly. Apologies if your photo has not featured on Facebook yet. I am trying to put on as many as possible but inevitable some may be missed. They are going to make a fantastic 'Back to School' display when everyone returns. Please keep these coming!

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks. Attached to this email is a letter we have been asked to circulate from the Local Authority.

With my good wishes,

Anne Sargent

Head teacher

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