

Dear Parents and Carers, June 11th 2020

I wanted to keep you informed of the situation at school, following the recent government decision that wider year groups will not be returning before September.

I had really been hoping we would have the opportunity to have other year groups in before the end of term but the Government and the Local Authority have made it clear that we will not be allowed to do this. The problem, of course is that we do not have any additional space of staff to create any further ‘pods’ of children. We have nine pods across the school, some staffed by teachers and some by TAs working in pairs and like most schools we do not have the capacity to widen this provision and still maintain social distancing rules. We have been fortunate in having most of our staff in and the additional space available to offer a full provision for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

This is very disappointing for us and I know you will be anxious for your children to return to school as soon as it is safe to do so. We are bound to follow the guidance given to us despite our strong awareness that so many of our children desperately need and want to be back at school.

It has been a delight to have the sound of children’s laughter and excitement back in school again and we have had a very high take up in all three year groups who are allowed back into school. If your child has not returned but you are now interested in sending them back, please remember to get in touch before bringing them in as we may need to adjust pods to accommodate our growing numbers. Our new pods have now agreed their names linked around the theme of British mammals, insects and birds. Hopefully, your child has told you their new name!

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| Pod 1 | Hedgehogs | Pod 6 | Kingfishers |
| Pod 2 | Fox Cubs | Pod 7 | Lynxes |
| Pod 3 | Field Mice | Pod 8a | Squirrels |
| Pod 4 | Owls | Pod 8b | Caterpillars |
| Pod 5 | Otters |  |  |

Many of you have been asking about September and we are unfortunately unable to answer this with any degree of certainty. As a maintained school we are currently liaising with the Local Authority in terms of our Autumn Term offer with the aim of sharing this early in July, this will be dependent on government guidance and maybe liable to change. I really hope this will be a full re-opening of school although my feeling is there may still be some restrictions, which may mean our provision may look a little different from school prior to the lockdown.

Please be assured that we will do **everything** in our power to bring children back to school as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. We have already started planning for September in terms of organisation and curriculum and will share more of this with you in July. You may be interested to know our staffing organisation for next year and I can now let you know that teachers will be teaching in the following year groups:

Reception: Miss Roche Year 1: Miss Lancaster and Mrs Woods Year 2: Mrs Potterton Year 3: Miss Vaughan (Miss Vaughan is replacing Miss Griffiths as she moves onto her adventure abroad) Year 4: Miss Southcott Year 5: Miss Hull Year 6: Mrs Glover and a new two day job share who will be appointed during this term

As usual, we will be using our highly skilled TA staff to support both in class, with groups and individual children and to run interventions across the school. There are a few other changes of role within the school but I will send out further information about these changes over the coming weeks.

Finally, I am very pleased to tell you that our IT suite conversion is now complete and we now have a fantastic new resource with a new family worker and SENDCo room, two small meetings rooms and a central learning area for groups especially linked to science and technology work across the school. We are calling it The Hub at the moment but will be launching a school community wide competition to rename this area. I will send out further details next week!

We had our first zoom assembly this week with year 4 and we will be rolling this out across years 2, 3 and 5 next week with class teachers joining in. It was great fun if not a little strange! Thank you to parents for supporting your children to get on line and to all the many children who took part.

Please continue to keep in touch with us. It is lovely to speak to many of you either on the phone or when you come up to school and I would like to thank you very sincerely for your encouraging and supportive comments to staff and to myself. Many of you have been so patient and appreciative as we all navigate a difficult course through these times and I am incredulous that you continue to do such an amazing job at home for your children who are unable to return to school at present. Thank you. Be assured, life will get back to normal and school will one day be up and running fully. We can’t wait!

With my very best wishes,

Anne Sargent

Head Teacher