

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light."



Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'd like to provide you with an update concerning the Governments recent announcement that school are able to accept back more children if it is feasible. We have been working rigorously behind the scenes to look at all the options and scenarios and would like to inform you of the following:

1. **Due to the amount of children that have come back in YR, Y1 and in our Key Worker / Vulnerable groups, we are unable to re-organise any of these groups.** Therefore, these groups will continue as they have been for the past 3 weeks. This will now be the case for the rest of the academic year.
2. We have a smaller Y6 cohort and therefore, due to the numbers in each group, **it is our intention to reorganise our Y6 children and reduce the bubbles from 3 to 2.** Miss Larmour' s Y6 children will be split between Mr. Hawker and Miss Hardware's bubbles and this will be communicated to you separately. For those children moving to Miss Hardware's bubble, this will also mean a change in time for children coming to and from school as is set out below (Group B). This will now be the case for the rest of the academic year.
3. **By releasing Miss Larmour from her bubble, she will be able to work remotely and more often with our Y5 children.** Y5 are a priority for us as a school with them taking their SATs tests next academic year. It is our intention to have a more increased and structured routine for these children and may include some online lessons, more regular contact with the children to look at learning and an expectation that more learning is sent in via the class email system. More details on this to follow in a separate letter.
4. Unfortunately, this means **we are unable to invite any more of our Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5 children back until September.** We are truly sorry about this and can assure you we have done what we can to try and change this; however, we just don't have the capacity under the current government guidelines. We will continue to be setting home learning on the website and engaging with families as we have done for the past 12 weeks and we are hoping to do a special invite for each class before the end of the school year – more details on this to follow.
5. **We are now at capacity and are unable to make any more changes before the summer break.** We will not be able to invite any other children back even if your circumstances have changed. We have tried to make it clear that we need plenty of notice for any changing circumstances and are sorry if this causes any issues.

As a reminder:

Group A – 8:45am (**prompt**) until 3pm (Miss Howe / Mrs. Trevelyan / Miss Villers / Mr. Moran / Miss Birtles / Mr. Hawker)

Group B – 9:15am (**prompt**) until 3:30pm (Miss Morrin / Miss Wormall / Mrs. DeMay / Miss Meadows / Mrs. Embleton / Miss Hardware)

On Fridays, school will close at 12pm for group A and 12:30pm for group B for additional cleaning of the school and for staff to have their PPA time. Children who have ordered a dinner will come home with a hot grab bag.

Also, as a reminder, please follow the guidance below when you and the children are coming in to school.

- a. **Children should be brought to school/collected from school (if not walking themselves) by one person** and you are asked to ensure that you are observing social distancing, following the signage regarding movement around the school and not staying on site once your children have been collected. Senior staff will be moving parents on if this is observed. **The car park will be locked and inaccessible to all vehicles between 8:30am and 9:30am and also between 2:45pm and 3:45pm.**

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- b. **The office is open but you are asked to limit contact with office staff to emergency contact** to reduce time spent on the school site. All current ways of communicating with the school are still accessible.
- c. **Children will need to be in school uniform** and normal school rules on behaviour, attendance etc. still apply.
- d. **If your child is sandwiches for lunch, they can bring in their lunch in a lunchbox.** No other bags will be allowed to be brought into school. No book bags, no school bags and no PE bags. (remember that all Reception, Year 2 and Year 1 children are entitled to a free school dinner)
- e. **If your child is dinners, please be aware that we will only be operating a hot lunch bag option during the current time.** This means, children will receive a sandwich, fruit, veg bag, biscuit, raisins and a hot item such as a slice of pizza or a sausage roll. These can be ordered and paid for in the usual way on School Grid.
- f. **When in school, children will only work in their class groups.** They will not mix with other groups at all – we'll be referring to this with children as "bubbles". Children will need to stay in their bubbles and they are not allowed to enter other bubbles. Bubbles have been created by school staff and will not be changed.
- g. **Children will be encouraged to wash their hands more frequently than normal and all good hygiene systems will be promoted and encouraged such as 'catch it, bin it, kill it!'**
- h. **At playtimes and lunchtimes, children will not be able to play in the way they do normally.** We will be insisting on social distancing and children will be getting plenty of fresh air and activity time – but they will not be able to play games with each other that involve needing to be closer than 2 metres apart or using equipment that is shared. It is recognised that this is more difficult for younger children.
- i. **A regular curriculum will be operated;** children will be working on reading, writing, maths skills. Topics will involve a lot of outside activity to support good ventilation and social distancing.
- j. Assemblies will continue much as they are currently. Star of the week assembly will be live on Facebook at 3pm every Friday! Additionally, a whole school virtual assembly will be beamed into classrooms / homes at 9:30am every Monday morning.
- k. Generally, staff will not wear face coverings. However, if they are administering care to a child including first aid, they will wear the appropriate PPE (face mask, gloves, apron).
- l. If a child is showing signs of Coronavirus, we have thermometers in school to take a temperature. If a child has symptoms, the child will need to go home and the child will be tested for Coronavirus. If that test is positive, the whole of the bubble (all children and staff) will need to isolate for 14 days. If the test is negative, the child can return to school.
- m. Parents who decide to keep their children at home during this time will be contacted regularly for updates much the same as is happening currently.
- n. As a reminder, Busy Kids will not operate until further notice. Neither will there be any after school clubs running until further notice.

I know that you will appreciate the amount of work that has gone in to the planning of this; if you have any questions about the information that has been shared, please contact myself or Mrs. Eaglefield in the usual ways and we will support you as best we can.

Finally, please be assured that your child's safety is of paramount importance to us. We will do everything we can to support them in a safe return to school.....plus the fact, we have missed them and can't wait to see them!!

My kindest and most sincere regards,

Mr. J. Williams (Headteacher)