Letter to year 6

15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope this message finds you safe and well.

On 10th May the Prime Minister announced a roadmap towards recovery, including plans for the phased return of some children to school from the week commencing 1st June. The new guidance says that for our school this will be year 6. We are all looking forward to when we can see the children back, but must ensure that plans are in place to safeguard our children, staff and parents, and this is what we are currently working on.

A small number of parents responded to our survey saying that they would not be sending their children back to school before September, but a further 75% suggested they would make this decision when they had further information about what this would look like. I am therefore writing to you to give an overview of our planning so far so that you can make an informed decision about whether you will be sending your child back to school.

- Children will be organised into groups of 10 and will remain in this group at all times – they will have playtimes, lessons and lunch together. We will limit the contact between groups throughout the day, desks will be placed 2 metres apart, children will sit on their own at tables and we will encourage social distancing at all stages of the day – although this has presented some difficulties with the children we currently have in school.

- The teacher for the group will remain the same, but please note this may not be a year 6 teacher.

- Each group will have staggered time slots to arrive at school in the morning and leave at the end of the day to reduce the numbers of parents waiting.

- Children will be in school for full days Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and will finish after lunch Thursday, again with staggered departure times.

- Children will be dropped off and collected at the main pedestrian gate on Bells Lane, no parents will be allowed onto the school site in the interest of infection control. Any messages can be left by either phoning the office or emailing.

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- There will be a queuing system outside of the gates and there should not be any gathering at the school gates of parents talking to other parents, in line with current Government social distancing rules.

- We are in the process of purchasing hand gel and sanitiser (although children can choose to bring their own if preferred) and children will be encouraged to frequently wash their hands. Children will have their own equipment or can bring a pencil case from home that must remain in school.

- We will continue to take children’s temperatures and if this is raised or children have a persistent cough they will be sent home and asked to isolate. No children feeling unwell or presenting with symptoms should be sent in to school.

- If someone within the group of 10 tests positive for Covid-19 all parents of those children will be told and will have to follow a 14 day isolation period (as will the member of staff attached to that group).

- City Serve have advised that they will not be able to provide hot meals at lunchtimes so children can either order a packed lunch, paying online as normal, or bring one from home.

- Unfortunately, the end of year traditional year 6 activities such as the end of year trip and the leavers assembly will not be able to take place, nor will sports day.

We are unable to guarantee the safety of your children in school and we cannot assure you 100% that we will have no Covid–19 cases in the coming weeks. Therefore, we will totally respect your decision if you choose not to send your child back to school, and government guidelines state that parents and carers will not face fines or other sanctions if they do not return. We do ask that once you have made your decision that you abide by this as it will be difficult for us to manage staffing and keep the children safe if numbers are constantly changing.

We will be able to provide more detail regarding timings when we are clear about the number of children we will have attending school. Can we ask that you complete another survey as you now have more detail, please only complete this once and if possible by Monday 18th May.

Kind regards

Mrs G Gaynor

Head Teacher

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