3rd July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope you are all keeping well. I wanted to take an opportunity to update you on transition communications, the summer holiday, important dates and our preparation towards a full reopen in September.

Transition
As we edge closer to the end of the academic year, I know you and your child/ren will be keen to find out who their class teacher/s will be next year. You will be pleased to know that we will be informing you of this information via email on Tuesday, 7th July. Also, their next class teacher/s are keen to provide an information page for your child so they can introduce themselves, as well as give a brief welcome to their new year group. These will be emailed to you via the school office on Tuesday also. As some of the children are at home and some are at school – for this year – we ask parents to share this information with your child/ren.

Summer holiday
The Government have advised that schools do not need to remain open for Critical workers and vulnerable children over the summer holidays, which will enable school staff to recharge over this period and come back refreshed in September. However, we understand that some of you may require some facilities over the summer period and therefore we have arranged for Premier Education to provide a holiday club at Blackwell Primary School from Thursday, 23rd July to Wednesday, 19th August (https://www.premier-education.com/holiday-camps/). Please note due to building work, there will be no summer club provision based at Halsford Park.

End of year gifts
We have very kindly had a number of requests from parents about whether end of year gifts can be passed onto staff, therefore I thought it would be useful to clarify our position. These requests place us in a slightly awkward position of not wanting to seem ungrateful or ungracious, however if we allow parents to bring in gifts, it would mean we compromise the integrity of our current risk assessment, which does not allow children to bring in items from home other than food, or weather appropriate accessories. In addition, the risk assessment states there shouldn’t be visitors onsite unless it is essential. Therefore please may I request that gifts are not brought into school. Should you really feel strongly that you wish to provide a gift for a member of staff, an option could be to wait until September. As a team, we do not expect gifts. In the current situation your continued emails of support and encouragement are the best gifts we could ask for. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.
Important dates

- **Tuesday, 7th July** Information regarding your child’s class teacher for the next academic year
- **Thursday, 16th July** Last day of the Summer Term for the children, including Critical worker and vulnerable children
- **Friday, 17th July INSET day** – School closed to all children, including Critical worker and vulnerable children
- **Monday, 20th July INSET day** – School closed to all children, including Critical worker and vulnerable children
- **SUMMER HOLIDAY**
- **Thursday, 3rd September** INSET day – School closed to all children
- **Friday, 4th September** INSET day – School closed to all children
- **Monday, 7th September** The Government are requesting all children to return in September.

Returning to school in September

You may be aware that the Government issued guidance for schools yesterday afternoon to help us plan for all pupils in all year groups to return to school fulltime from the beginning of the autumn term. The new guidance is currently contained within a lengthy document (58 pages) that the leadership team are currently studying, to ensure that we have all vital safety measures factored carefully into our considerations. We do intend to be in a position to share our initial plans with you by the end of next week.

We will be working on a plan over the coming days based on this government guidance, but due to the significant logistical challenges involved, for example to continue to ‘minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible’ we will need time to update our risk assessment and parent manual to ensure you have all the information required.

Parent/Carer survey on our ‘Come back Curriculum’

As a school community, we are very aware of the challenges that some of our learners have faced and know that we will need to make changes to our curriculum to reflect this. With this in mind, we have reviewed our curriculum intent and are now planning the shift in focus that we believe will be needed including a continued focus on wellbeing as well as an ambitious and broad curriculum.

It is invaluable for us to have input and the views of all the stakeholders in our community to inform our planning and preparation. To ensure all stakeholders’ views are included, we would like parents and carers to complete a short survey which can be accessed via the link below.

https://forms.gle/xY1zyB1BP5KhwQwV7

We would be very grateful if this could be completed by Tuesday 7th July by 7pm.

Thank you once again for your incredible support during this period.

With kind regards

Mrs Claire Spencer
Headteacher