Dear Parents

End of term update

May I begin by expressing our heartfelt gratitude to you all for your support and engagement this year but in particular since 23rd March. School Leaders have been working hard in trying to limit the impact, partial closure and then wider opening of the school, may have had upon your child’s learning and emotional well-being. Your support, feedback and suggestions have been crucial in informing those decisions and work. It was wonderful to see so many of our children and families accessing the school safely last week. The collection of reports gave us the opportunity for children to say farewell to their current adults and to say hello to their adults ahead of September and for us to reestablish our visual contact. Our weekly welfare calls to all of our families have continued since 23rd March and must run into thousands of conversations if not tens of thousands. Your willingness to engage has been such a positive from such an anxious time.

So onto September. Leaders absolutely understand the anxiety that may exist in our community around returning to school. We take this anxiety very seriously indeed and want to make sure that any decision taken or system put into place supports all of our children in returning to school. The feedback from parents of pupils in Reception, Years 1 and 6 and the Key worker groups who accessed the school during the Summer term was both positive and constructive. We know that parents and children were reassured by the measures we took as it demonstrated the seriousness with which we addressed the identified risks to wider opening. We will use this experience as a foundation for our work in supporting all of our children returning to school in September alongside the latest advice from Her Majesty’s Government, Public Health England, Birmingham Local Authority and Create Partnership Trust. With this in mind, Leaders are working now to update our risk assessments and procedures but, at the same time, ensuring the work is detailed and accurate.

At the moment, school will open to children on Wednesday 2nd September. During the week beginning 1st September, Mr. Khadim will be contacting parents of children with known specific needs (medical, emotional, learning) to ensure that individual plans are put into place to support a return to school site. We are very certain that this work will be carried out in partnership: Government expectations, parents, pupil and school. We are working alongside the other schools in Create Partnership to see how we can support learning not carried out on school site as well as supporting our parents and carers as you return to your places of work. We ask you to keep looking at our school website and twitter feed for updates. The main updates will be posted onto the school website and twitter and sent via parent mail the week commencing Monday 24th August.

So to this academic year – it has been a very successful year for our school.

We had the chance to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils at an end of year socially distanced picnic. We have also emailed, to each pupil and their families and uploaded onto the school website, a goodbye video. We send them onto their next stage of their learning with love and good wishes. We wish them all well.
We are saying farewell to Miss Coghlan who has come to the end of her year’s contract with us as our Deputy Head teacher. Miss Coghlan has worked so hard and has made such a huge contribution to our progress as a school. We also say goodbye to Miss Dearn and Mrs Iqbal who also come to the end of their fixed term contracts. All three have supported the school wholeheartedly and we wish them all well for the future.

We are also pleased to announce a couple of promotions. Mr C Rose has been appointed as our Deputy Head teacher from September. Mr Rose has been part of the school leadership team since 2013 so has certainly seen some changes. We are thrilled that he has been successful in this promotion and will wait excitedly to see how he and Miss Lucas work together given they are both passionate followers of Birmingham based football teams – just two different ones!

We are also pleased to announce the promotion of Mrs Darnley from Year Group Leader to Assistant Head teacher. Miss Darnley also joined the school in 2013 and has also been part of the school’s recent journey. Luckily, Mrs Darnley is not in the slightest interested in football!

We send our love and best wishes to both Miss Dearn and Mrs Hashim on the imminent arrivals of their babies. We pray for the safe delivery of both children.

We are also delighted and very excited to be welcoming 100 new children into our reception class in September – an increase of almost 30 children from last year. This has meant that additional teachers are being employed so we will be welcoming Miss Rasif, Miss Singleton and Mrs Hussain in September.

We shall continue to post on twitter updates on the next stage of building works and improvements that are taking place across the summer to make our school safer.

To finish, thank you, be safe, stay alert and have a peaceful summer. Plans are to reopen the school to children Wednesday 2nd September. Please check the school website, twitter and emails week beginning 24th August. We also want to take this opportunity to wish our children and families Happy Eid al-Adha. We know that Eid celebrations at the end of July will be very different to celebrations in May and we hope that they are joyous and celebratory.

C Lucas

Miss Lucas