10th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to update arrangements we have made for the next phase in the wider reopening from 15th June 2020.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your understanding and cooperation across the past weeks. I know that this period has been challenging for families and continue to recognise you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare and home schooling.

As you are aware, we have adhered to the views and advice of the scientists and on Friday 5th June 2020, we received information, as well as, advice from the Director of Public Health, Derbyshire County Council. I have included part of the summary below:

‘Derbyshire County Council’s position is that a phased approach would suit the local context best. This means initially that schools and early years settings can begin to welcome back more key worker children and vulnerable young people if the school environment can accommodate this safely.’

The wider opening to the Key Worker, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Group has seen a marked rise in pupil numbers across the past two weeks. Our school has incorporated the social distancing rule, and this has reduced capacity by half. However, only 23% of our 68 families said they would want their child/ren to return to the school setting across the summer term.

‘While accepting the challenges with young children, wherever possible, schools should practice 2m social distancing.’ (Director of Public Health, Derbyshire County Council 5th June 2020)

On Tuesday 9th June, the government abandoned its plans to fully reopen primary schools before the end of term.

For the week beginning 15th June 2020, I have directly communicated with each family who have accepted a place within the identified group. Fortunately, this has also resulted in those parents who have children directly in YR, Y1 and Y6, stating they would wish their child to return, being able to do so within this group.

I will contact parents, who have children returning on Monday 15th June, to inform them of which entrance to use now we have increased numbers. Our times for drop off will be 9am and as the flexible ‘pick-up’ at the end of the day has worked well, this will continue. If all the children have left the site by 3pm we have found it easier to accommodate a daily deep clean due to the increased numbers, we have been accepting.

From 1st June 2020, the position of schools changed from the direct role of care for critical workers and resumed their role as educators. Each teacher will now directly feedback on each child’s learning, centred on the DFE Oak Academy. It will provide a ‘common’ language between those children within the school setting and those working from home. Worksheets and activity books are fantastic, but they do not replace the sequenced learning that children need to enable them to take skills and see how they are used and applied. The Oak Academy has qualified teachers who take a learning objective and break it down into meaningful chunks across a week. Class Dojo also enables each child to photograph their daily work and post to their teacher for feedback. I have been truly inspired by reading some of the writing examples posted by our children.

I know that as we move through the next few weeks, there will be more parents/carers who have been asked to directly return to their workplace and this continues to be our priority group. As always please do not hesitate to phone the school or email.

Again, thank you for your continued support,

Mrs J L Stevenson.