

12 June 2020

Dear Parents

Hope you are all well and healthy and safe. I am writing to update you on the current state of play at school.

We have welcomed back into school just over 50 children from Reception and Year 1 in addition to the children of the key workers who are already here in school. On Monday we welcome 42 Year 6's taking our intake to just over a third of our total school population. We will then be running 12 'bubble' groups in all of the classrooms plus the Cwtch. We have therefore run out of space and staff to enable us to accommodate any more children. The government guidelines have prioritised these year groups above all others and suggested that the children are in full time once they are back.

However, if you do have a child in Reception or Year 1 and have not yet sent your child back to school we will now require 2 weeks notice. This is because we will need to refigure the arrangements and year groups may have to go to a rota basis. Each of the bubbles are full in classes with no more space to allow for the 2 metre social distancing rule.

This is what the school looks like currently



Lots of yellow tape, cordoned off areas and plenty of space between the desks for the children within each bubble group. The field and playgrounds have been zoned for playtimes and lunchtimes. The children have coped with these changes remarkably well. They are so resilient.

You will have heard on the news that the government have rescinded their pledge to provide school based learning to all primary pupils by the end of this month. With the current rules in place this was never going to be a possibility. We are sad about this and if we were able to take more children back to school we would. However, all of the staff are working now in classes teaching the three year groups in school. We have made the decision to close on Friday's so that we can still maintain the home learning online offer as well as the Zoom class meetings on a weekly basis. I do urge you to try to participate in these as it is important that the children see their friends and still feel part of their classes and our school. For some this may be difficult due to work commitments and we acknowledge this, so please don't worry if you can't. We would still like to see how well the children are completing their home learning activities through photos and emails to their class teachers. These are welcomed.

With regards to September, at the moment we are in the dark about any plans the government may or may not have. Schools do not have any prior knowledge of announcement made by the PM or ministers on the TV. We hear the same news that you do and then have an update from the DFE either after the event that day or a couple of days later. During the past three weeks there have been 41 guidance updates, some so tiny that it is becoming quite frustrating. We had already done most of what was required before the guidance comes out and just fit our plans to suit. As soon as we know what is expected I will be in touch with you. We are hoping that we will be as back to normal as we can. It will be so great to have everyone back where they belong. The announcements for the summer 'catch-up' are not been published however, we do know that whatever this looks like it will not take place in schools as we have heard via the BBC news that schools will not be open during the summer holidays for key worker children. Once again, this has not been disseminated to schools officially. When I find out any details I will be in touch again with you.

On a personal note, I would like to thank those parents who have contacted the staff and myself to thank us for the communication, the contact and the work being set. It is appreciated.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Evens on becoming a father on Wednesday to a beautiful baby girl called Eira. Both Eira and mother are doing very well and as you might expect Mr Evens is very excited about being a proud dad.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Paul D Smith
Head Teacher