

Monday 29 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

First and most importantly, I hope you and your families are well and that everyone is staying positive.

Since last week, there have been a few developments that I can report, although I offer this to you on the premise that things could change again very quickly.

The current indication is that schools will be closed over the summer holiday period which means the end of term will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. As I understand it, the school will be closed to all pupils but the local authority is currently looking to develop a programme of playschemes and activities that should be running during the summer, from a number of different sites. Hopefully, this will provide some much-needed support for children and families during the holidays and we will provide more details as and when they become available.

We are also awaiting confirmation and guidance from the government that all pupils will be expected to return to school in September. The Minister for Education, Gavin Williamson is reported to have said that it will be compulsory for all children to return to school in September and we believe there will be an announcement confirming this later this week. Like you, we will also be keen to see the details about how this will be achieved safely and we will come back to you in due course.

We have had over 150 children return to school since 1<sup>st</sup> June and they have settled quickly and confidently into new routines, into new groups and in many cases, with new members of staff. I take great heart from this because it shows how resilient and versatile our children are and how quickly they can adapt and work confidently in new routines. Hopefully, when everyone returns after the summer, we will see this pattern replicated across the school and all our children will quickly fall back into good routines and we can start the £1billion 'catch up' programme in earnest.

Before the term ends, we are keen to do as much as we can to increase the children's access to IT to enable them to work as effectively as possible at home. At this point, I would also like to acknowledge your amazing work with your children as you try to balance being a parent and home tutor as well as working from home yourselves! The school's remote learning programme has been carefully planned and there are also lots of other excellent resources online to keep the children entertained to maintain their knowledge and skills. We have a relatively small number of school-owned Chromebooks that we would like to make available to those children in Year 2 to Year 5 who currently have limited access to online resources at home and we have contacted a number of you to provide support. If you have received contact then please get in touch so we can help you with this in the next few days.

We are also aiming to set up class meetings on Microsoft TEAMS before the end of term to enable children to see their current teacher and also to meet their new one so everyone can start to look forward to the new school year. This is one of a number of ideas we are currently developing that will enable those children who are not in school to re-connect, to ensure the full return in September can run more smoothly for everyone. More details to follow.



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In the meantime, if there is anything we can do to help then please make contact and we will do our best to support you.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)

