

25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to confirm details about our plans to re-open fully to all children from September 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming our entire school family back, meeting new faces and getting on with the task of growing hearts and minds.

There will inevitably be some changes to how our school can operate safely whilst doing all that we can to minimise the risk still posed by COVID-19. However, we will work hard to maintain as much normality for our children as possible. The information accompanying this letter sets out in greater detail how each area of school life will be affected - from classrooms to one-way systems and from uniform to lunchtime arrangements. Please read the information carefully and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

The past few months have given many of us the chance to reflect on how we approach a whole range of things. In school, we have spent a long time reflecting on what is important for our children, what the curriculum should include for example and how we can better organise our teaching and staffing for the benefit of our children.

This term, due to the restrictions on the movement of people between class groups, we have been finishing school early on a Wednesday afternoon. This has enabled teachers to still have their statutory release time for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) whilst maintaining the integrity of our groups or 'bubbles'.

These past six weeks have also highlighted the huge benefits that significantly smaller teaching groups can bring to our children, with the increased attention and focused support that staff have been able to offer. We intend to continue this from September – a time when we believe many children will benefit from the additional learning, emotional and behavioural support that higher staff to pupil ratios will enable.

This arrangement may also help to support those families who have irregular working patterns or who would appreciate the flexibility to do things in the week that are not usually possible. In order to support working parents and those with limited childcare options the school is proposing to offer a number of free childcare options ('clubs') on Wednesday afternoons, mainly led by our support staff.

Due to the restrictions that will still be in place in September, the range of options will initially be limited. However, if successful, the school intends to expand this provision (as restrictions continue to ease) in order to create significant extra-curricular opportunities tailored to the needs of our community. We certainly hope to be able cover all reasonable requests in time.

It is envisaged that there would also be opportunities for children to take part in any 'catch-up' or tutoring programmes that may be possible through additional Government funding. It would also create the flexibility to trial innovative ways of supporting the specific needs of our children in the future.

From September, our school will therefore continue to finish after lunchtime on Wednesday afternoons as it did last term. Children would either be able to go home with parents/carers or remain in school for free 'after-school' type clubs, subject to sufficient spaces being available. Parents will be asked to pre-book spaces each half term to support planning for provision. It will take us a little time to get this organised for the start of this term so parents are asked to bear with us initially.

Please note that these arrangements do not affect children in our Nursery setting.

The school intends to trial this change for one year with a review carried out each term. We believe that parental views and feedback are crucial and have already helped to guide a number of other school developments and priorities. Thank you to everyone that responded so constructively to our consultation over the summer period.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Jones'.

David Jones  
Headteacher