



South Gosforth First School

'Roots to grow and wings to fly'

Dear New Parents & Carers

I thought that I would share our plans for how we intend to welcome you and your children in to our school community over the coming weeks.

As I have already mentioned in my previous email to you all, usually we would have our families and children in to school to familiarise themselves with the staff and to enable our new starters to explore their new classroom environment and outdoor area before they start school in the new academic year. We were hoping that we could have found some way to do this with you and your children later this term, however after reading the most recent information from DfE this week, it appears that the guidance around cross contamination, 'bubble groups' and social distancing will not be changing before the summer holidays, therefore unfortunately we will not be able to have our new families in school for visits at the moment. I completely understand that this is extremely important and we are sad not to be able to provide this for you all, however I am sure that you can understand that the safety of our pupils, staff and community has got to come first, which is why we are unable to provide these visits this year. I am sorry for any inconvenience which this may cause.

In light of the safety measures imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have come up with a range of alternative transition activities which I would like to make you all aware of:

- 'ZOOM' New Starters Meeting - This will be held on Wednesday 24th June. You will have received an email with information about how to log in to the meeting. Please note that there are 2 different meetings for the different classes. Please also note that everyone will be 'muted' at the beginning of the meeting. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end. For anyone who would rather not ask questions in front of other parents and carers, they can email or phone me directly in school, or they can ask Mrs Burnett or Mrs Wate during their phone calls.
- Phone Calls from EYFS Staff - Mrs Burnett & Mrs Wate have managed to speak to most of our new families over the phone over the last couple of weeks. They will be giving you all another call in a couple of weeks time to ensure that they can answer any of your questions and have another chat with you (and maybe even to speak with your children on the phone if they feel brave enough!)
- Video Tour - During the week beginning June 29th, we will be posting a video of a tour of the school so that you can get a sense of what the building looks like inside and to understand where the 2 classrooms are and where the children will come in and leave school every day. I will email the link out to you all at some point in that week.
- Story Videos - Before the end of the term, both Mrs Wate and Mrs Burnett will post 2 video clips each on to our school Youtube channel of them reading their favourite stories. This will be great to show to your children so that they can familiarise themselves with what their new teachers looks and sounds like. Again, I will email you these links as they are available.
- Information by Email - We will also be sharing a number of useful documents over email before the end of term.
- Letter Home during the Summer Holidays - Mrs Burnett & Mrs Wate will also be sending home a letter to each child in their class over the summer holidays to introduce themselves and say hello!

I hope that you will all see that we are trying to provide as many opportunities as we can to make your children's transition in to school as smooth and seamless as possible in these unprecedented circumstances.

Once again, I would like to welcome you all to our South Gosforth First School family and I look forward to meeting all of you in person very soon.

Warmest wishes.

Mr Adams

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