



Jessie Younghusband School



Ref:Sum.1 .20

Friday 5th June

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is lovely to be writing my first 'normal' newsletter since March. This one is fairly short but there are a few bits of information and news I wanted to pass on.

Mrs Sadler

Welcome back Year R and 1

It has been wonderful to see so many of our Year R and 1 children returning for their two days in school this week. Everyone seems to have had a great time and we have had so much positive feedback about all the arrangements we have put in place to enable children to return safely. Thank you.

School does of course look and feel very different but despite this the children have shown amazing adaptability and the smiles and obvious enjoyment of being back has given us all a much needed boost.

We hope to be able to welcome Year 6 back in a week or two once our numbers have settled down.

Staff Team

The staff have worked extremely hard to provide the support to the children of key workers despite inevitable anxieties for their own safety, and that of their families, especially during the period of full lockdown. They have also put a great deal of effort into providing learning activities for you to undertake at home and to keep in touch as much as practically possible.

I would like to say how proud I am to have such an amazing team who have given their very best during this time and continue to be so committed and flexible as we open more widely to additional children. This has been an enormous undertaking involving a complete re-organisation of the classrooms as well as the way we teach and how we manage breaks and lunchtimes so that we can follow the Government's guidelines and keep everyone safe.

Key workers

We have been open for keyworker children all the way through and the numbers in these groups have steadily increased. We are asked to prioritise children with parents who are key workers and we have all been very proud to be able to offer our support to the work being undertaken to deal with the on-going pandemic.



Annual Reports



The children's Annual Reports for this year will cover the period September to March when lockdown started. The teachers have been writing them over the lockdown period so they will reflect the attainment and progress assessed at the 'mid-year' point.

It will not be possible this year to give an end of year assessment but we will be undertaking assessments as children return so we know where to start teaching as the return gains pace, We anticipate getting guidance on this from the Government and Local Authority in due course.

Contact us at office@jys.org.uk 01243 782192

The reports will be sent out over the next couple weeks by email. Each report will need to be separately emailed so they will not all arrive of the same day - please bear with us on that.

There will be no formal assessments undertaken this year as we would normally do at the end of Year R, 2 and 6 and there will be no phonics check for Year 1 or tables check for Year 4. The Government have announced that the performance tables will not be published either. I appreciate that this is disappointing for the children especially those in Year 6, who have worked hard towards the end of keystage tests but this is the situation nationally. All schools will be looking at how they respond to this next year once we have a clearer picture of arrangements for September.

Up-dating the School Library

We have used the opportunity presented by the lockdown to start re-organising and up-dating the library. A lot of time has been spent by staff who are themselves vulnerable, and therefore not currently able to work with the children, going through all of the books and weeding out those that are very old and others that are very worn and damaged, All of these books have given good service but now need replacing.



We will be creating a comfortable area for reading and enjoying books. All of these improvements will form part of our focus to prioritise reading once things become more normal again. There will be more on this in the autumn.

Work around the Site

Mr Wilkins, our new Premises Officer, has been keeping himself very busy getting to know the school. He has almost finished decorating the corridors in keystage 2 giving that area a lighter more modern feel and is also working on the pond which we hope will be completed by the time we are back in September.

We are still waiting to hear when the new fence and back gate along the Norwich Road boundary will be installed. It was due to happen at Easter but had to be delayed due to Lockdown. This will hopefully happen during the summer holidays.

It is a big job trying to keep the grounds tidy especially without the usual input from parents during grounds day but Mr Wilkins is doing an excellent job. I do hope that we will be able to have a grounds day in the autumn but we will have to wait to see if that will be possible.

Road Works in Norwich Road

The road works currently being undertaken in Norwich Road seem to be progressing well. If you are returning to school for the first time and plan to park here please allow a little more time as parking is limited around the back gate at the moment.

Dates for your diary

Summer Term 2020

Starts: Monday 20th April
Half Term: Monday 25th to Friday 29th May
Ends: Monday 20th July

INSET day Monday 20th July

Autumn Term 2020

Starts: Thursday 3rd September
Half Term: Monday 26th to Friday 30th October
Ends: Friday 18th December

INSET day(s) Thursday 3rd September; Friday 4th September and Monday 2nd November (subject to any further guidance in respect of CV-19 and Governor Approval)

Please note that future term dates are available on the West Sussex Council website

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-term-dates/>