



Carrington Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers

June News Update

As glorious May bows out and June awaits to bathe us in its sunshine, we are ready to welcome back Year 6 after half-term, following the Government's announcement. This news has been met with much trepidation from all quarters, from parents unsure of what to do to unions raising their concerns. However, the situation stands – pending government confirmation, from June 1st Year 6 can return to school.

The type of schooling which will be on offer will be one that has never been seen in Carrington or indeed the whole nation. We have been bound by many restrictions with ever changing government guidance at the helm. We now find ourselves with a split school, with some of us learning in school and some of us continuing to learn at home. We have been so proud of the way in which the children from Carrington Junior School have met the challenge of learning at home and adapted to a life which is very different to what we are all used to. It isn't always easy and all of us have experienced a range of emotions as we get used to the challenges of our current situations but we have all kept going. Each and every pupil should be proud of the work they are doing. Indeed, some of our pupils have gone above and beyond creating neighbourhood newsletters or holding socially distanced fundraising events. Please do keep on sending pictures of work and projects in on Seesaw.

In school, in order to create an environment which is as safe as possible, much planning, preparation and sheer hard graft has gone into changing the usual school protocols, curriculum, classrooms, site and much else. All these changes have meant a great deal of meetings, most of which have been virtual of course, with all levels of staff, discussions with governors and the Local Authority and decisions of what is right for us at Carrington Junior School.

So, how will it look?

In order to maintain social distancing measures, staff have had to be rearranged. Mrs Briant has her desk in the reception area with appropriate screening and white 2m distancing lines have been dutifully painted by Mr Pearce outside the main entrances and classroom doors. These are the main physical differences which can be easily seen.

Then of course it came to organising our Year 6 cohort. With social distancing again at the forefront of our planning, we decided to group them into classes of 10 children (the number that can be safely housed in our classrooms). The names for the classes originated from the colour of the year group – in this case blue and other exciting shades were decided upon. At this point parents/carers were asked if they were intending their children to return to school which gave us a rough idea of how many children to expect.

Our Year 6 teachers, planned a very different curriculum which focussed on key skills, subjects which needed further boosting and most importantly PSHE. The Year 6 teachers then shared their thoughts and planning with all other teachers who would be teaching Year 6 also. For those teachers, they will be returning to school teaching a different age range with a different curriculum which has meant much careful preparation on their behalf. However, what I am particularly proud of is that everyone was very much behind this new way of working. In the afternoons, our trusty TAs will take the classes whilst the teachers from years 3 – 5 continue to

plan home learning for their own original classes and stay in touch with the parents/children via Seesaw. The Year 6 teachers will plan the next week's learning whilst continuing to communicate with secondary schools.

The children will remain in their 'hubs' throughout the day, therefore, minimising the risk of cross contamination with others. As much outdoor learning and PE have been planned as possible.

We remain open for childcare for key worker and vulnerable families. This group will be placed in the Year 3 classrooms and looked after by teachers and TAs. They will use the front of the school as their playground in order to lessen the traffic on the field and main playground.

Many new routines and protocols have also been prepared and put into place. These include regular cleaning of door handles, etc, new bins especially bought for spent tissues to be placed into and additional PPE for staff to be used when required.

Whilst the government guidance changes on an almost daily basis I feel we are planned, prepared and ready to welcome the Year 6 children back to school. What will happen next with the remaining cohorts returning to school is at this point unclear. So whether you are a Year 6 parent who is considering or indeed sending their child back to school, or a Year 3 – 5 parent continuing with home schooling I wish you all the very best and look forward welcoming some of you back soon.

In the meantime, may I refer you to information in the [Parents](#) section of our website, which explains our new way of working in school and includes links to government guidance for schools at this time.

Stay alert, control the virus and saves lives.

Best wishes from myself and all the staff.



Mrs A Majcher
Head Teacher