

Keeping in Touch – 12th June 2020

Dear all,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you and your family keeping safe and well.

We have now started our timetable of YR, Y1 and Y6 attending school 3 days each week, plus our on-going provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable families. We have all been so impressed with how sensible the children have been and how quickly they have adapted to the new routines and ways of doing things. Many thanks to all of you as well, who are working very hard to make sure that you are abiding by the different drop-off and pick-up times, and ensuring that your child is ready for school on their days. It has been so nice to hear the school fill with more noise and bustle, particularly on Wednesdays when Mrs Fowler has come back and leads singing in all the groups. We have to keep all the windows and doors open in school at the moment, and although that has meant I have had to dig my winter boots back out again so I don't freeze to death, it also meant that I was able to enjoy the music being created in every class which was just lovely.

I have to admit that I was somewhat disappointed earlier this week that the Government's announcement about education did not provide anything concrete for parents, children and schools moving forwards. I feel incredibly strongly that this current situation is taking a huge toll on all our children and that this needs to be recognised and addressed. I am passionate that every child should experience at least some school before the summer holidays. The chance to have a little 'normality' and to see their friends, classmates and staff would be so very positive for all their wellbeing. The Government suggested in the initial statement that the decision about welcoming all children back would be left to schools. This was the only heartening part of what was said, as I thought that would mean that I would be able to plan and do what I felt was best for Keevil and our children. However, this was then followed by an announcement saying that the Government will be publishing further 'guidance' regarding this next week. So now we are back to a holding pattern awaiting this, as I do not want to rush ahead with plans and promise you all something which I then have to retract when the Government suddenly announces we have to do something very different. I am afraid that this far into this crisis my trust is rather dented as the initial headlines rarely match the specifics of the requirements that are eventually given to us. So, please know that all of us in school want to be able to offer the chance to come back in some shape or form to all children this term, and we are currently making plans to this effect behind the scenes. But we are unable to finalise these and share them with you until we hear more next week. I am very sorry that this is the best that we can do at this time.

Although it is proving nigh on impossible at the moment to put plans in place for next week let alone next year, there is one bit of news that I can share with you. Miss Ashdown will not be returning from her maternity leave until January 2021, and we are very lucky that Miss Robinson has agreed to continue teaching in Winter Class until this time. Our plan for next year is for Winter Class to be home for our new YR children and all our Y1 cohort (this year's YR); Spring Class will be for our Y2 and Y3 children; Summer Class will be for our Y4 group and part of our Y5 cohort; and Autumn Class will have part of the Y5 group and our Y6 children. Although quite how this will look in practice in September remains to be seen... Those of you who have children due to join us in YR in September will be receiving information from school regarding this in the next week.

To finish off this week I have some great news to share about William Dimmock in Y4. He has shown great resilience and adaptability and has continued his martial arts training during lockdown virtually. During this time he has learnt and mastered the skills required that meant that last week he passed his grading (via Zoom) to achieve his Yellow Belt. Many many congratulations Will, we are all so proud of your dedication and motivation at such a difficult time. It is lovely to be able to share your celebrations with you.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon

