

# Cheddington Combined School



21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin this week's communication by thanking you all for your patience. On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May the Prime Minister announced that the Government were advising schools to welcome back some of the children from 1<sup>st</sup> June if certain conditions are met. Since then I have received almost daily guidance documents from the Department for Education outlining the way in which they expect schools to manage this new situation. I have also received a number of documents from the Local Authority. In addition I have read an increasing number of medical publications. My Senior Leadership Team and myself have spent many hours digesting all of the information and drawing up a detailed rationale and risk assessment. These documents have been discussed and approved by our Governing Board. I have then shared these with the staff team. As you can imagine we sometimes have more questions than answers, but throughout all the planning and discussion the well-being and safety of the children and the staff has been paramount. The documents and planning are under constant review and are updated in line with guidance as we receive it.

Today, in addition to this update, I will be sending specific letters to those of you who have children in YR, Y1 or Y6. Please take the time to read this year group letter carefully as it will outline the detail of what the 'new' school day will be like for your children. I would like to make it clear to all parents that we are working very hard to ensure that school will be as safe as it is possible to make it for the children to be welcomed back once the Government say that it is appropriate to do so. We have missed them so much, and it will be lovely to see them again. I am aware that there has been a lot of debate and conflicting information in the press over the past week or so; so I would like to reassure you that it is your choice at this time if you wish your child to accept the invitation to attend, and that you may change your mind as the days progress. As time moves on this information will be shared with all of you, but the timescale for this will depend on the Government decisions. The current hope is that all children may be able to be welcomed back for some time in school prior to the summer, but this is yet to be confirmed

The care for the children of key workers which the school has been offering since March 24<sup>th</sup> will continue, and these children will not be permitted to mix with the children in the year groups which are being welcomed back. As we gradually move out of lockdown I anticipate that more of you will may need this child care, so please do refer to last week's communication for more information and contact the school office by email.

It does seem slightly surreal that next week marks half term. Therefore, there will be no learning at home activities posted for the children. It would usually be a time for them to enjoy being at home – something that is for the moment the norm. I do hope that, although we cannot travel for a half-term break, we can have a break at or near home. I must admit that the glorious weather we have been enjoying has meant that picnics in the garden are definitely something we plan to continue! We will all gradually be getting used to being able to go out again, even with the recommended distancing, so maybe our picnics can be taken further afield.

Thank you to all parents who have been encouraging their children to keep in touch with their teachers on the VLE. This is so important for them, as it maintains that special relationship they have with the staff. I know that the teachers are spending many hours responding to the children as well as setting the tasks and

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High Street, Cheddington, nr. Leighton Buzzard LU7 0RG  
T: 01296 668324 E: office@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk W: cheddingtonschool.org

looking at all the work the children are sharing. Please keep encouraging your children to share their learning at home activities in this way.

I once read that the only thing that is constant is change. That certainly is the case at this time. I hope that the Government have not issued yet more new guidance whilst this letter is on its way to you! Watch this space.....

Mrs K. Tamlyn  
Head Teacher

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