

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

*This is a particularly full letter this week. Please do take the time to read it carefully as it contains a lot of important information.*

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation. It is so lovely to have been able to welcome back increasing numbers of children, and we are now up to 90% of the school who have been able to spend time back with their peers prior to the summer. Almost all the children have really enjoyed their time with their peers, though, as expected, for some the return to some formal education has been a challenge after so long in the family circle. We continue to prioritise the emotional and mental well-being of all the children, as gains made now will make life easier for them in the long term.

Congestion on Lammas Road and outside the gate remains a concern. Please may I remind you that the five-minute window times are the period of time for arrival for the children in that class. There is no expectation that you will be waiting at the top of the drive ready to walk down to queue so that the children enter the playground in the first seconds of that window. Similarly at the end of the day, the children will be dismissed at the given dismissal time (see newsletter of 11<sup>th</sup> June), the window allows you a five minute lee-way in which to arrive so that you are there to collect your child as they come out from school. May I please ask all adults to be conscious of the needs of the residents, they may need to be moving their vehicles at these times, and, as all cars have a blind spot, they may not be able to see you. Safety must be a priority at all times. Thank you for your awareness and help in keeping to the times and moving with consideration.

At collection time, please wait on the playground in the area of the number square at the required social distancing of two metres. As the children are dismissed please walk and meet your child to avoid congestion at the front gate. If you are waiting for another sibling, then your child will come to you. Please be ready to meet your child and leave promptly to ensure everyone is safe. Any siblings waiting with you must stay beside you and should not be playing with their peers, even if they are in the same learning group. Thank you.

Attached to this communication is a letter from Simon James, Buckinghamshire Council Service Director: Education which we have been asked to forward to you. He echoes in his letter the information from the Department for Education - thanking schools for all they have done during the pandemic, and that there is no expectation that school should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over the summer holidays. We have offered this since March 24<sup>th</sup>, and the staff throughout lockdown worked long hours to ensure suitable learning at home activities were supported by interaction with the children on a daily basis on the VLE, as well as being on a rota to provide the requested child-care.

The DfE have updated their guidance for parents document. It can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The gardeners have worked extremely hard in the sensory garden to clear a tangle of brambles, self-seeded plants and a mass of willow over this week. Some plants have been preserved and we are looking forward in the long term to planting some lovely new specimens to make the garden a mindful and peaceful space for the children. There is still much to do before this pleasant task, as over the years the edging has rotted, the

membranes have disintegrated and the shingle vanished into the ground or a multitude of children's pockets! Over the coming months the refurbishment will continue and by the autumn we hope to be able to make this space once again available to the children.

This evening your child will bring home their annual written report, which remains a legal requirement. We would suggest that if you have any concerns this is left for 72 hours to mitigate any risk of viral transmission. You will note that we have not included a reply slip this year, but the enclosed letter does explain how to comment should you wish to do so. We are relying on your child to give it to you. If your child is not able to be in school at present then we will post the report to you so it should arrive within the next few days.

Transition day would have been next Tuesday. Obviously under the current restrictions this is not able to take place in the usual way. The teachers have written a letter to the children to welcome them to their new class; which will also formally identify their teacher and support staff for the new academic year. Please note that the staffing is subject to review once the arrangements for September can be finalised. These are going to be posted to the children – so please do not spoil the surprise but do look out for a letter addressed to your child early next week. In September – as yet still an unknown scenario – we hope to offer Good to be Us as usual, with a particular emphasis on being ready to move forward into the new year group.

The end of the year is usually marked with an Achievement Assembly to which parents of children receiving an award are invited. Understandably, this year Achievement Assembly cannot take place, but the awards will still be made. These will be announced to the children on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July so that the recipients can be recognised and applauded by the learning group or class for their amazing achievements in sport and the arts; those whose academic progress has been recognised with a Head Teacher's award; and those who have been entered into our Roll of Honour (the Green Book). Certificates will be sent home at the end of term. However, the cups and medals will have to be held until the autumn when we hope to be able to have these engraved and then collected by yourselves or the children.

I have been asked by a number of parents about gifts for the teachers to mark the end of the academic year. There is never an expectation of these, but the staff are always very touched by, and appreciative of, such gifts. If you would like to give a gift to the staff who have worked with your children over the year, then please do so. Since the government recommendation regarding transfer of items is 72 hours, as per the reports, it would be lovely if these could be given on the last Thursday rather than the very end of term. The staff could then isolate the gifts prior to taking them home. I know they always are very grateful for your generosity and thought.

I hope you all are able to enjoy the weekend safely as the next phase of relaxation of lockdown begins.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher