

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

At the end of this most unusual and unprecedented school year I am sure you will want to join me in giving an enormous thank you to all the staff. The teachers worked tirelessly during the period of national lockdown to encourage and keep in contact with your children whilst they were learning at home. Over the past half term both the teachers and the support staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that those children who have been welcomed back into school have had the support they needed, and been able to have an enjoyable learning experiences in their learning groups. I am immensely appreciative of all they have done.

I would also like to thank you all for your support of the school, and the trust you have placed in us. I have been very moved by the messages of thanks and appreciation you have sent; and would like to extend a thank you from myself and all the staff for the lovely gifts you have given us. They are much appreciated.

Yesterday those children who have received awards for this school year were celebrated. The Head Teacher awards recognise academic achievement; citations which accompany a child's entry into our Roll of Honour in the Green Book were shared; and those children whose achievements in sports and the arts were commended. Cups and medals will be given in the autumn once we are able to have these engraved. I am very proud of all our children, and congratulate those whose outstanding contributions over the year have been recognised. I would also like to congratulate our Parent of the Year, whose work to support us all with second hand uniform and the PTA has been a lifeline for many this year. Thank you.

In this last letter of the year I would like to again look ahead to September, with some reminders. All children are expected to return to full-time schooling in their class groups for learning. We are looking forward to seeing those who have as yet not been able to attend. The children should be in correct uniform; should this present a difficulty then please do contact me. As mentioned in the letter of 9<sup>th</sup> July, we have taken to decision to allow trainers as an alternative to school shoes. (For September, we will allow trainers of any colour, but please purchase black at the next size in line with our shoe policy.) All children will require their own stationery equipment in a wipeable pencil case as at present. (Please send in cash in a sealed envelope should you wish to purchase items from the school shop. Details are on the website.) However, this will be able to come home should your child require it to enable homework activities to be completed. Reading books will also re-commence early in the autumn term, as guidance restricting books moving between home and school have been relaxed. Your child will therefore need their book bag (KS1) or a small rucksack which will fit under their chair. It is my understanding that the school coach will resume operation, and I have requested a collection time which is in line with the end of our staggered school day. I will let you know prior to the start of term if I have had confirmation of this by then.

The school is still charged with implementing a range of measures to minimise risk to the children, the staff and yourselves. We will aim to follow as many of these as possible for as much of the time as possible as this will create the safest environment for us all. I attach to this message a poster style summary of helpful information which I trust will continue to reassure you. Our full risk assessment will be reviewed over the summer in line with all

Government guidance. Please note that the one-way system will still be in operation, and visitors to the school will be continue to be limited. Staggered start and collection times are as previously issued in the letters of 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July. At the start of the year in September our continued focus will be on the emotional and mental well-being of the children, and on ensuring secure learning of the core skills which will have been impacted by recent events. We plan to move to a wider curriculum focus as soon as the children are ready to do so.

Lunches will continue to be packed, not hot, meals for the immediate future. Please ensure these have been ordered by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August for the start of the term. Should you wish your child to bring a lunch from home, this must be in a named lunchbox which they will need to place in an appropriate way on the correct trolley. The children must be able to open all items independently, as adults are still not permitted to handle the children's food.

I have been in contact with The Future Game, who will be offering Morning Activity Club from 7:45am as previously. This will now run until 8:55am to accommodate the staggered start to the school day. Children will be in their year groups and will keep a distance from other year groups at this Club – though siblings may be together if required, but apart from other children. The Future Game are also hoping to offer mixed boys and girls sports opportunities for KS2 and Y2 classes, with each class being offered this on a particular day each week; probably Y2 to Y6 Monday to Friday. At the present time we are still guided to minimise mixing between classes. As yet I have not received final details of these clubs, but we will send them out to you once we receive them. It seems unlikely that other additional curricular provision will be possible for at least the Autumn term, but should the virus threat decrease we will implement more as soon as we can do so safely and in line with all Department for Education guidance. Our peripatetic instrumental music teachers will be able to resume teaching on-site, with the room cleaned between uses. I am sure they will be in touch with you over the coming weeks, and they may be able to offer new students the opportunity to learn in the autumn. We will send details when we have them.

The Government have issued some top tips for encouraging your child to read over the summer <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read> . As I mentioned last week please continue to read a range of materials with your child, discussing the story and vocabulary; and to do some 'maths' in a fun way as it fits into everyday life – doubling and halving recipes, measuring to make something, counting change etc. Any activities you do will help to keep your child engaged with learning.

I do hope that as a family you will be able to have some time to relax over the coming weeks and to keep safe. The weather forecast is looking not too bad for August, and time in the garden and in the village is always enjoyable. If you are able to enjoy some time away and days out, then I hope you travel safe and are able to have some lovely family experiences. We look forward to seeing the children on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at their new arrival times.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher