

25th June 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to welcome back so many of the children this week. Thank you for your very kind messages and for your co-operation with the five-minute windows, the one-way system and maintaining the social distancing required of adults. This has worked more smoothly as the week has progressed so please do continue to arrive within the five-minute windows and not be early or late, as this reduces congestion on Lammas Road and makes it safer for everyone. May I also remind you that older or younger siblings must stay by you whilst you wait for other members of the family to be join us or be dismissed. At dismissal time please wait for your child to be at the front of the line and walk and meet ready to leave the playground. It is important that we do not have a congestion moment as parents leave through the front gate. If you are awaiting a sibling then your child will come to you to move to the back of the playground. Thank you for you help in keeping everyone as safe as we can.

The children who have been welcomed back have had a lovely week – it is so wonderful to see them and to hear their voices as they share their learning. As I mentioned we have focused on their mental and emotional well-being. We are very aware that after so long at home and confined, separation anxiety is very real for both the children and yourselves. I can assure you that we are doing everything we can to support the children, and they are settled once they are in school in their learning groups. We would not hesitate to contact you if your child continued to show signs of distress during the day.

As yet there is no official information about September and the start of the new academic year. As soon as such information is made available, possibly in the next two weeks, I will reflect on it and plan accordingly, letting you know once these plans are finalised. We receive the information at the same time as it is released to the public, so I thank you in advance for bearing with me.

As you may be aware, the sensory garden has become very overgrown and is not safe for the children due to the seats having rotted. I have worked over this year with our grounds maintenance team, but sadly they have not been able to take this forward. Consequently I have engaged the services of a different company to ensure the garden will be usable for next year, and have had to work round their schedule. We will be following all the LA advice as we will have a small crew of gardeners on-site for three days next week. They will not be anywhere near the children at any time, and will avoid our arrival and departure windows. Once the garden is cleared, we intend to revamp the design and replant. The end results should hopefully be beautiful for the children.

You may be aware that as the end of the academic year approaches we usually offer a time of transition. Obviously that is not possible this year, and I wish to reassure you that whatever form September may take, transition will be a focus for us to ensure that the children feel comfortable and confident. Our end of year activities such as Sports Day and week, Awards Assembly and the KS2 production have had to be cancelled due to the current situation. We cannot replace these experiences for the children, but I would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to make these few weeks special for the children.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher