



Shortlanesend School

Newsletter



12th June 2020

Summer Term

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you are all safe and well.

School Update

This week speaking in the House of Commons, Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) confirmed that the government is not able to open primaries to all children for a month before the summer as was previously announced, however, he also said this:

"While we are not able to welcome all primary children back for a full month before the summer, we continue to work with the sector on the next steps, where we'd like to see schools who have the capacity to bring back more children in those smaller class sizes – to do so, if they are able to, before the summer holidays"

Our school like many others is already operating at absolute capacity. The guidelines are very clear on the order that schools must work to accommodate children. Schools are asked to provide provision for Key Workers and vulnerable children first.

Whilst we fully appreciate the frustration that families are feeling, we must adhere to a number of limiting factors that are out of our control concerning the safety measures that currently need to be in place in schools.

We can safely run three pods of up to 15 children, some schools have capped their pod sizes to 10. We must also provide spaces for vulnerable families. Our pods are currently full.

This week we have had to refuse requests from parents for provision at our school. We do not like doing this, we would if permitted, have all our children back in school. We miss them immensely.

We have checked for spaces in other Aspire schools in our area – they report the same situation. We have compiled a waiting list should anything alter, as we review our provision daily.

Please if you are a key worker and your child has a reserved place in one of our pods – which you no longer require inform us swiftly, as we may be able to offer that space to a family on our waiting list.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Home Learning

Next week two more learning activity packs will be uploaded to our school website – Week **11 and 12**. We fully understand that it can be very challenging and stressful teaching children at home in the current climate for many reasons. Please, if you can, try to use as much of the suggested learning activities as possible.

Well-being

A reminder once again to continue to look after yourselves as adults. It is perfectly normal for anyone to feel anxious, worried or scared during this challenging time. If you need to talk, here are some useful contacts:

Family Lives

Advice on all aspects of parenting.

Phone: 0808 800 2222 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm)

Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Relate

The UK's largest provider of relationship support.

Website: www.relate.org.uk

Young Minds

Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals.

Phone: Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)

Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

Samaritans

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

Be
gentle
with
yourself,
you're
doing the
best you
can.

