

6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents,

The children have settled back into routines quickly and are focusing on their new learning alongside the continued need to consolidate learning from last term. We are supporting all the children to develop their learning behaviours, and to appropriately feel secure ready to move forward.

The staff really appreciated the opportunity to speak with you at Parent Consultation Meetings last week. Although there were one or two 'glitches', the overwhelming majority of meetings worked smoothly and we avoided a power cut! I do hope that you found the discussions helpful to understand areas of success and how you can support your child's learning to develop. It is our intention that, in future years, the Autumn term meeting will continue to be a virtual one, as we appreciate that for almost all parents this has been both successful and convenient. In Spring 2022 we plan to welcome you on-site to peruse your children's work and meet in the hall with the teachers, as we used to prior to the pandemic.

The press this week has been full of speculation ahead of the next step of the Government road-map due to be implemented on May 17<sup>th</sup>. At that point six people or two households will be able to mix indoors so play-dates will be once again permitted. Outdoors larger groups up to 30 will be allowed, so the park becomes less of a risk factor. However, we are still awaiting any update to the Guidance for Schools from the Department for Education to inform us what – if anything at this time – schools may relax. We have worked so hard to do everything possible to keep the children and the staff, as well as families, as safe as possible. Therefore, once the Guidance is issued, we will reflectively implement any changes, at all times placing the well-being of the children and staff as the priority.

As you will understand, school life has been very different over the past 14 months for all of us. Schools have been instructed by the Government to address as a priority the impact of the pandemic, with the associated lock-downs and periods of remote learning, on the children's learning and progress. This, coupled with the uncertainty around the relaxation of restrictions due to new variants being brought into the country, has meant that we have had to consider most carefully traditional summer term activities (which take considerable advance planning). We have to consider carefully both the obligations around learning and the well-being and safety of the children and adults.

After much reflection and thought this year there will be no KS2/Y6 production. We do understand that the children will be disappointed, but the time taken up by this and the uncertainties which remain around the possibility of safe performance make it not a priority in use of time.

We are hopeful that all our children will be able to enjoy some special activities in Sports Week in June as external coaches should be allowed on-site by then; but we will not be having a full Sports Day again this year. The children will compete for their House in class competition, but not inter-class or with spectators.

Likewise, we hope to be able to offer some special activity time to Y6 towards the end of their time with us, but are not able to confirm any plans at this time. It is, as yet, too early to confirm if a leavers assembly may be possible, but we are keeping our fingers crossed. We will of course, keep you informed at the earliest opportunity of any changes and if we are able to welcome parents en-masse into school.

In terms of transition between classes and schools, the Local Authority is preparing guidance for all schools ahead of July. As yet nothing has been confirmed.

Despite all the uncertainties at this time, we remain very hopeful that our next school year will feel more like pre-pandemic times. We are already looking ahead and beginning to plan for day and residential visits; inviting visitors onto site; offering additional curricular opportunities to enhance the learning as we have done previously; not to mention having hot lunches for the children to enjoy. Fingers – and everything else – firmly crossed!

Class newsletters will be posted onto the VLE today or tomorrow for you to see what the children will be learning in the coming weeks. We are not issuing these in hard copy again this time.

I have been asked to share with you the [Bucks Disabled Children's Register](#) this may be of interest and relevance to families.

Mrs K. Tamlyn  
Head Teacher