

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start this letter by thanking all of you for your patience and positive support, particularly over the past two weeks. It has been wonderful to see some of you at the school gates again, and thank you so much for being punctual and helping us to work efficiently under the current conditions. For those of you with your children still at home, thank you for continuing to engage effectively with our online learning. We really miss all your children and would love to be able to welcome them back to school too. Please could you continue to upload or send work in by email – we are all very keen to see what your children have been learning at home. Even if you are not using the learning materials we provide, but are following BBC Bitesize or Oak Academy, please still continue to photograph and send work; it is lovely for us to have this contact with your children. The expectation of a minimum of one piece of English, one piece of maths and one other piece of work, per week, still remains. I am pleased that the children in school and online, in Reception and in Year 6, are hoping to have some ‘joined up’ live sessions next week, which could be a really exciting way of working!

I am sure that you all heard, or heard about the speech made by Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, this week. Of course, I would love to have all our children back in school, and this will happen as soon as it is safe to do so. At the moment, with the current ‘bubble’ safety measures in place, which are unlikely to be lifted or significantly amended in the near future, we are already very close to capacity. We have a few places in the Y1 ‘bubble’ with Mrs Orrock, but no more space now for Year 6 or Reception. Mr Jones continues to oversee the online learning for years 3-5 for four days of the week, leading a ‘key worker’ bubble on Fridays. It is a difficult balancing act maintaining safety, quality online provision, and upholding the rights of parents to send their children to school, as critical workers. The governors and I think we are managing this well at the moment, but a significant rise in demand for any of these categories could threaten this effectiveness. Please continue to be patient; our ideal is for us to be able to offer an afternoon of outdoor activities to each year group separately, on Jesus Green, before the end of term. However, I have been firmly instructed not to promise anything! Our unreliable British weather could also put an end to these plans, whatever other measures we are able to put in place! Please also read the attached letter from Jonathan Lewis regarding the wider reopening of schools.

September

I am, of course, hoping that we will be able to open fully in September, but am awaiting guidance from the government as to how the next stages of the pandemic develop. We are all working to consider how we best support learning in a range of scenarios! Transition information has been shared from the secondary schools with our year 6 parents, and we are putting the usual arrangements in place for the children starting in Reception in September, although some of the opportunities this term will be online. Please let me know if you are a parent in either of these groups and you have any concerns.

Support Teacher

We were interviewing yesterday for the 'Support Teacher' role, and I am delighted to tell you that we have appointed June Stevenson, to the post. She will be supporting learning mostly in Class 4, helping to close gaps caused by this pause in schooling. The post has been generously funded by Church Schools of Cambridge.

Test and Trace Procedures – information from the Local Authority

As schools extend their opening from provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children to bringing back eligible year groups, there is a change in the risk of transmission within the school environment. Many schools have been open for children of key workers throughout the pandemic, and this has been incredibly important for supporting the health and social care system. Largely, there have been very few reported cases or outbreaks in schools during this period.

It is important that anyone with symptoms follows the guidance on getting tested and self-isolates for 7 days. All household contacts of a confirmed case must also isolate for 14 days, and get a test if they themselves develop symptoms.

The new NHS Test and Trace service will increase access to tests and complete contact tracing linked to the household (such as social or family contacts) meaning that any household contacts must isolate for 14 days, and anyone who is identified as having had significant contact with the person outside of the home will also be told to isolate for 14 days.

Thank you again for all your support over this time. Speaking with other headteachers, I am aware that I am blessed to work with such a supportive and positive community, of staff, parents and governors. The strength of our school family has been clearly evident through the challenges Covid 19 has thrown at us!

I hope that you all have a good weekend,

Best wishes,

Sarah