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Learning together. Achieving together.

24th June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

How are you all?

Things have moved on with DFE announcements last week about catch up programmes. The gist is that the school will have extra money to support children who have fallen behind academically or need some emotional or mental health support. When all the children return we will make some early assessments and target support over the course of the next academic year. There is a lot of talk about a “lost generation” but I don’t believe that – our children will bounce back and bounce back quickly.

The reception, year 1 and year 6 children who have returned have taken everything in their stride including coping with strange classroom setups, different teachers, different lunchtime arrangements, staggered starts and end to the school day and new hygiene regimes. They have been brilliant and it has been fantastic to see and hear them again. Half the year 6 children started back this week. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate them all at once due to all the staff being committed to working with other groups, so they will come in on a rota until the end of term

Teachers have been contacting children over the last few weeks for a catch up. It has given them a chance to have informal chats with the children and to get a sense on how the children are feeling as well as how they have been engaging in the online learning provided through the school website. The vast majority of feedback from parents, both from talking to them on the phone, via email or through talking to parents whose children have returned to school, has been positive about the support the children have received and the communication that they have had from their teachers and from school in general. However, I completely understand parent’s frustrations about the fact that children have been out of school for a long period of time and for some they won’t be returning until September. It has also been incredibly hard for some families to juggle everything and try to provide home schooling. However, I don’t feel it is acceptable to take these frustrations out on the teaching staff. Although there will be differences in approaches, the majority of schools in our network have been providing support in a very similar way.

We would like to see all the children before we finish in July, so we are intending to open the school up on Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July, after the end of term, for children in years 2,3,4 and 5 who have not been in school. We will split each class into two groups with one group in on Monday and the other on Tuesday. This at least will give the children the chance to finish the year, see their friend and teachers, meet their new teachers and take part in some fun activities. I will write to parents separately next week with more details about these arrangements. Friday 17th of July will be the last day of term for the other year groups and **not an INSET day as originally planned.**

At the moment there is still no guidance about September. My feeling is that there will be some restrictions on activities such as whole school assemblies/singing and their will social distancing between adults, however we are planning on the assumption that all the children will return.

Thank you for your continued support. I will write to you again soon with further updates.

Yours sincerely,
S J Talbot
Simon Talbot
Head Teacher