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10th July 2020

Newsletter 11

Dear Parents,

You may be aware that the DfE produced detailed guidance for all schools regarding our return to school in September last Thursday which we are now using to rewrite our updated risk assessment. Alongside that guidance was a document produced for parents and carers, the link is shown below, I hope you will find it useful.

Our value this half-term is love & compassion.



We show love and compassion for each other.

John 15:12

Love each other as I have loved you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

The guidance states, 'There cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach where the system of controls describes every scenario. School leaders will be best placed to understand the needs of their schools and communities, and to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage risk. The system of controls provides a set of principles to help them do this and, if schools follow this advice, they will effectively minimise risks.

We want all pupils and staff to be back in schools, and believe the conditions are right for this, but some people will understandably have worries that should be heard and addressed. We expect schools and trusts to work closely with parents, staff and unions, as they normally would, when agreeing the best approaches for their circumstances.'

Given the small size of our school, we are essentially aiming to start in September for all children as 1 whole school bubble with year group classes acting as 'mini bubbles' within this larger bubble. We will aim to minimise movement across classes but may join 2 classes together when we feel it is needed in order for us to provide a wider

curriculum offer or to allow for a more efficient organisation e.g. lunch. This is yet another 'recalibration' but we are hopeful that we be able to reassemble as a school community once more. The emphasis on maintaining social distancing between adults will continue and where possible between adults and children, but as previously we will not be expecting children to be able to do this all the time. Our other important protective measures and controls are essential in minimising risks and will continue (hand hygiene using frequent handwashing and respiratory hygiene using 'catch it, bin it, kill it') as well as cleaning of equipment and surfaces. Please contact us if you have any particular worries or issues you feel we need to consider.

Please remember that we will now additionally be using Monday (20th July) all day and Tuesday morning (21st July) to train staff and re-write our risk assessment. **This means the school will close (at the usual time) on Friday 17th July.** We do hope that no families are inconvenienced by this and that you understand that this precious time will be used to conclude the details of our approach and finish our risk assessment. Please be ready to read any information from the school that is produced as a result of these days or through the summer break so that you are better prepared for September.

Staffing

We are now in a position to give you information about our staffing organisation for next year:

Hedgehogs (Early years)

Mrs Priestley, Mrs Martin, Mrs Llewellyn

Foxes (Year 1)

Mrs Tinmouth, Mrs Denyssen, Mrs McGinnis, Mrs Finn, Mrs Woods.

Owls (Year 2)

Miss Jones, Mrs Rennles, Mrs Holt-Miller

As mentioned previously Mrs Priestley will be our Acting Head of School.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Bennett at the end of this year. We would like to thank her for her many contributions to our school community but are hoping that she will still continue to part of our family in some way even after she passes on her FONS responsibilities in

September. Mrs Woods will be extending her role at our school and will be joining the Year 1 team as teaching assistant.

We are looking at keeping a staggered approach with the timings below, but will monitor the effectiveness of this and may be making small changes accordingly:

Years 1 (Foxes) & Year 2 (Owls) 8.40 – 8.45 a.m.
Early Years (Hedgehogs) 8.50 – 9.00 a.m.

Picking up times will remain as normal (the old normal!) of:

Years 1 (Foxes) & Year 2 (Owls) 3.10 p.m.
Early Years (Hedgehogs) 3.00 p.m.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

We know that many families have relied on this provision so we are prioritising this in September and are hoping to be able to offer this from 3rd September when we return. Risk assessments and details of our booking system (this will be essential for us to minimise risk) will follow next week and we will aim to be more efficient in our payment system. We would hope that families can book and pay in advance whenever possible.

Swimming Pool

We are very excited to announce that from Saturday 11th July 2020 we are able to offer family slots at our swimming pool. Thanks to the hard work of Carole Chaplin, Pippa Bennet and Gayle Priestley all of the arrangements have been made and details will be sent to you today from FONS.

Assemblies

For the last 2 weeks we have continued to talk to the children about acts of kindness and used *'The Good Samaritan'* bible story to prompt discussion. After watching (muted to add more impact to the visuals) the animation below we discussed what was happening, what we expected to happen, who needed help and who gave help and why others did not. The children highlighted the difference in the colour of the characters in the animation and some suggested that they were not sure that characters of different colour would help each other because of their differences, but also clearly articulated that they felt it should not matter and everybody should have help if they needed it. We then briefly explored what was happening in our world and how adults were thinking about noticing a group of people that may need more help than others (as did the blue character in the story) and how they could talk about this and give that help when it was needed. We introduced the term 'black lives matter' to explain that this group were asking for help. Racism is an unacceptable thing to experience and an uncomfortable thing to talk about, but we felt it was important that we support our young children to begin to

understand this topic and have been guided on our approach by Diocesan information. Below is a link to the Blue Peter website that has more information that will hopefully help you to discuss this issue further with your children at home should you wish to.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/bp-advice-for-helping-to-stop-racism>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGdqKWTSXdU>

School reports will be sent out next week, they will look very similar to previous formats but will be different in that they will be mainly focussed on assessments that were done in the first half of the year. We hope you will find them useful as the children move forward in their journeys.

We have not put any dates in our diary this year other than the following INSET days as it does not seem appropriate at this moment:

Tuesday 1st September 2020
Wednesday 2nd September 2020
Friday 23rd October 2020
Monday 22nd February 2021
Wednesday 21st July 2021

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss