



Tuesday June 16th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, we had to make the decision to postpone the return of our year 5 children last week. As was mentioned in my previous letter our school re-opening risk assessment is under continuous review. Ultimately, the decision rested upon two key factors: the number of small groups of children ('bubbles') and how many staff are required to supervise the increasing number of bubbles.

To clarify, we have currently 51 of our 59 year 6 children attending school. Whilst the 2m social distancing remains in place, this means that we can only safely accommodate 10 children in our classrooms and 15 in the hall (the guidance is clear that there should not be more than 15 in one indoor place, regardless of size of space).

Furthermore, and critically, the number of vulnerable children and key workers' children in school has grown dramatically over the past two weeks. We now have 48 children registered as eligible and have had to create, this week, another 'bubble' to accommodate the additional children attending from this group. We now have 4 individual year group bubbles for keyworker and vulnerable pupils, with the largest group based in the school hall as there are often over 10 children in this group. This means we can provide those children with learning opportunities relevant to their year group which is a very positive development; however, it also means that 40% of our teaching staff are looking after this cohort. The remainder of our teaching staff are supervising our year 6 bubbles. Due to this, we are working at virtual capacity and 95% of the staffing team is now working in school to enable safe supervision of the children from currently eligible groups.

It was felt that postponing the return of the year 5 would be the safest option until numbers in the key worker and vulnerable groups have stabilised.

As you all know, the rules around Covid 19 are changing greatly. It is because of this that we are unable to make full plans beyond the next few weeks. It is still our intention to try to welcome back our year 5 children as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. As stated previously, a weekly re-assessment

takes place every Wednesday and you will be informed of the outcome at the earliest opportunity.

The dedication of our staff team throughout this crisis has been outstanding, many of whom have had to make some very difficult decisions to enable them to continue to come into school.

I fully understand the difficult position many of you are facing at home. It is beyond frustrating to think of the weeks that most of our children have missed in school. However, please be assured that every decision made is done so with the best interests of the entire school community in mind.

Thank you for your continued support and patience in these very uncertain times.

With very best wishes,

Rob Slater

Head of School