



19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your support for what staff are doing in our three very different provisions in very challenging circumstances. I want to apologise to the parents who have said that we should have made phone calls sooner. With hindsight, and an ability to predict the government's next announcement, we might have done it differently. I have had conversations with some of those parents and I am pleased that they have accepted the apology and understood the enormous pressure that we have been working under with very limited resources.

Our focus has always been to keep everyone safe and a lot of work went on behind the scenes in the early weeks to set things up in a sustainable way. I am grateful to the majority of parents who recognise the work that has been done and have expressed their gratitude to staff.

**A summary of the work in the three "schools" so far (please see the website for the guides):**

### **Home Learning Provision:**

Mrs Kirkham-Knowles reports that the vast majority of children are engaging with some home learning and that staff are aware of the wide range of circumstances that families are working within. We want to reinforce the message that safety and wellbeing are the most important areas of focus and we don't want any family to feel under pressure.

The government's announcement this morning will hopefully reassure everyone that "catch-up" will be in place in schools when children return but please don't stop doing what is working for you. Staff will continue to call the children who are not attending school at all to encourage and share their work.

### **Key Worker Provision**

This is the most established provision. It has settled into routines with which the children are familiar. Parents who are taking advantage of the offer understand that we are not enforcing social distancing of the youngest children and this brings with it a higher level of risk than in the rest of school. Having had a member of the team tested for Covid-19 earlier this week, it reminded us all to continue to take the precautions seriously. Happily, the test came back negative and the member of staff is getting better.

### **Year 6 Provision**

Just over half of the children have returned to a very different form of school to the one that they left in March. In their own words, they have found it "weird", "cool because you are in small groups" and "different because you have your own desk". Most importantly, they report feeling **safe** because of the measures that are in place.

I am very grateful to all of the staff for the very flexible ways in which they are working and the fact that they are willing to step in to cover anything that crops up (even on their days off and at weekends).

We are currently working on:

- maintaining and developing our 3 schools in 1 provision,
- ensuring that families that need additional support are getting it,
- introducing more children safely to school
- planning classes and staffing for September,
- planning an induction for new starters,
- supporting transition for Y6 pupils to secondary school,
- working out what the catch-up programme will look like underneath the government's headline (today's addition to the list),
- further developing the contact with pupils,
- trying to avoid closing any part of our operation down because someone, sadly, catches Covid-19,
- and looking after staff wellbeing so that they are able to deliver it all by not adding too much more to this list.

Please bear with us if we don't quite deliver everything that you would want. I can assure you that we are doing our best in very extreme circumstances.

Please continue to send suggestions in and we will add them to future adaptations if they can be accommodated.

And finally, I am pleased to say that you won't have a gap in your "Memories" boxes in future years because the teaching staff have been writing Annual Reports to parents for the work that your children have done this academic year up to the lockdown period. They will be sent home before the end of term.

Stay safe,

Chris Kirkham-Knowles  
Headteacher