

17th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing, as promised, with some more detail about our plan between now and the end of the academic year. As you know, I wish that we were in a position to bring back all the children before September but this is simply not possible due to the current class size restrictions (15 maximum), available indoor and outdoor space, (we would need 18 classrooms when we have 9) and the number of available Staff as all of them are teaching our 7 class groups in school.

If you wish to look again at all the frequently asked questions and my responses in previous newsletters they are now available in a summary document on our website on our front page.

We now have a total of 107 children attending as more of our Reception and Key worker children have returned to school. This is nearly 39% of our whole school population which is significantly higher than the national average.

The staff and I would very much enjoy the opportunity to see *all of the children in year one and two* before the end of the year and we have now planned opportunities for the children to attend in half class groups for two **after school** sessions each. We are also planning an end of year two event for the children to attend. We know that the children are missing school and their teachers and we know that many of you are finding it hard to motivate the children.

The three purposes we wish to achieve are:

- Contact with friends and their own class teachers.
- To motivate the children to achieve tasks to bring and share.
- To provide holiday learning materials to take home.

In order to enable these visits to happen safely the Staff, Governors and I have risk assessed, followed the DFE guidance for schools and considered the wider impact.

Reducing risk

- The social bubbles we are creating for the children to visit are only for this purpose. It does not mean that the Government Lockdown restrictions do not apply outside of school or that the group of parents attached to the children's half class can begin to socialise. If parents are not observing the Government restrictions outside of school in terms of numbers of contacts with other adults and children we request that you keep your child at home and do not participate in the visits. We all need to "do our bit" to ensure we do not increase the risk of a wider spread of the virus.
- The sessions will take place **after** school **between 3.15 and 4pm** as there is insufficient space and staff to hold visits during the school day with all the social distancing measures in place for our seven existing class bubbles.
- Only two half classes will be able to attend each session to enable social distancing and use of the two areas of the school which are least used: Year 1 children will use Maple classroom and year two will use Oak Class.
- Only one parent to accompany their child.
- Year Two parents must enter and leave the site via the Bridge Gardens gate.
- Year One parents must enter and leave the site via the Hansler Grove gate.
- We will use the outdoor space for the majority of the visit which will be separate from the space used by the other visiting class group.

- We have created half class lists for each class as there must be a maximum of 15 children together and will contact you following this letter to inform you which half class group your child belongs to.
- Parents entering and exiting the site will be told which gate to use and will be asked to observe social distancing at all times. Drop -offs and collections will need to be prompt with no gatherings.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands as soon as they come in to the class area and should wash their hands when they return home.
- Staff will wash their hands before and after meeting the children.

Year 2 Leavers' mementoes and events

Miss McCarthy is organising a photo and video memento for all year two children. We would like you to provide a digital photo of your child and a video of your child singing the year 2 song which Miss McCarthy has put on the Learning Platform, (words and music). Please send these, (according to which class your child is in) by **Thursday 2nd July**. Please can the children **wear their uniforms** for the photos and the video. The addresses are as follows:

beechphoto@orchard.surrey.sch.uk or

oakphoto@orchard.surrey.sch.uk or

sycamorephoto@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

For the video this will be a whole year compilation so please email to

y2video@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

Please do not use the other year 2 email address for this purpose.

On **17th, 20th and 21st July** after school we will be hosting **Year 2 tea parties** when the children will have the chance to sing the song with their peers, teachers and parents present. We will ensure social distancing measures are in place and this event will take place outside. We will send you more details nearer the time.

Please see below the timetable for year 1 and 2 visits and Leavers Tea parties

Week 1 of visits June 22nd

M Willow 1

T Willow 2

W Maple 1 Oak 1

Th Maple 2 Oak 2

Week 2 June 29th

M Rowan 1 Sycamore 1

T Rowan 2 Sycamore 2

W Beech 1

Th Beech 2

Week 3 July 6th

M Willow 1

T Willow 2.

W Maple 1. Oak 1

Th Maple 2 Oak 2

Week 4 July 13th

M Rowan 1 Sycamore 1
T Rowan 2 Sycamore 2
W Beech 1
Th Beech 2
F Oak Class Outdoor Tea Party

Week 5 July 20th

M Sycamore Class Outdoor Tea Party
T Beech Class Outdoor Tea Party

Please can the children bring:

- Their scooters- clearly named!
- A self- portrait – A4 sized
- The reading books they have had at home- Please wipe these down first and then place them in the box provided outside the room where they are meeting the teacher.

Following this Newsletter, you will receive a letter informing you which class group your child has been allocated to for the class visits. Lists have been created to have a mixture of boys and girls and friends. We cannot change any children from one group to the other.

INSET days

We did not hold our INSET day on June 1st as we wished to bring the Reception children back to school as soon as possible. We are also **postponing our scheduled INSET day planned for July 10th** so Reception and Key Worker children should attend as usual on that day.

We will use these additional two days at the beginning of September alongside our two planned for Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September.

The children will return, as long as the class size restrictions have been lifted, on **Monday 7th September**.

This will enable the staff to plan together and prepare thoroughly for the new academic year and be able to ensure all classrooms, the curriculum and provision is suitable for the children's return after such a long time at home. It will also provide us with time to adapt should the Government place any new requirements or restrictions on us.

Independence and Motivation

Mrs Turi has posted a film on the learning platform to encourage the children to be independent in their home learning. This is in response to parent feedback and is an excellent resource for you to watch as well as the children. This, alongside the visits for year one and two children will, we hope, help to motivate your children to do more independently.

Early next week I will post a history focussed assembly, which, I hope, will inspire some research-based learning.

Guidance on supporting writing will also be sent out next week.

Thank you all very much for posting the examples of your children's work via the learning platform. We are really pleased to provide feedback on the children's learning and our feedback from you is that this works effectively. We have been thrilled by the work the children are doing. Thank you for all your support.

Competition winners for year one and two will be announced on the Learning Platform on Friday.

New Reception Children

We have organised a virtual induction process for all our new families with films included in the welcome pack on our website.

We will be organising an **after- school collection** of pre- ordered book bags, pe bags and the welcome leaflet for the children on **Friday 10th July**. We will write separately with more detail on how this will be organised.

Current Reception Children and Key Worker classes

We continue to be very pleased with how engaged the children are and how well they are doing in their learning. They have adapted so well and it has been great to see them enjoying school and their friends again.

Thank you for maintaining social distancing on site and following the one- way system. Please can you ensure that neither you nor the children's siblings touch the equipment as this is being maintained for the class "bubble" only. Ideally you should arrive on site for your allocated time and not several minutes before as this minimises gathering time and time when young siblings might wander and touch equipment. Thank you for your support.

Staffing

Staff and Classes will be announced at the beginning of July for next September.

Thank you to the whole staff team who have been working so hard throughout this period and have been so flexible and committed to doing the best for the children whether at home or at school. Thank you for all your positive feedback in relation to the tremendous efforts of all the staff.

We are really excited about seeing all the children when they visit.

Please look out for the letter which states which half class bubble your child has been allocated.

With renewed thanks for all your support,

With very best wishes,
Carol Rusby