

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope that you are all well. It has been lovely seeing some of the wonderful and creative home learning that children have been busy with. Our staff are working hard to continue to plan and respond to the outcomes of each child's learning. Next week is half term and school will be closed to all pupils. We will not be setting on-line learning for the week but will return to doing so from Monday 1st June.

As you are aware, we currently await confirmation from central government, most likely on 28th May, as to whether the phased re-opening of schools for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will go ahead. You will have seen lots of publicity in the media and the proposal continues to be discussed at great length by local authorities and unions.

In the meantime, I have been working closely with the other schools in our trust to form a possible plan for a gradual, phased return for children in the targeted year groups at Starbeck. Mrs Pitts and I have now made phone calls to all our **Reception, Year 1 & Year 6** parents and carers, to have a one to one discussion and gather initial views about a potential return. We understand that there are many differing family contexts and speaking to each and every parent or carer was very important to us. Thank you for your honest and informative updates. We have noted which children hope to return however, as discussed during those conversations, parents who were undecided are welcome to contact us after half term.

You will also receive a letter from our trust CEO – Jenn Plews, in which she sets out the measures that the trust as a whole are taking to plan safely for children to return to school. We hope that you find this information useful. As a trust we have agreed some central decisions:

- Our schools feel that due to the strict measures relating to social distancing, we feel that providing meaningful nursery provision at this current point in time would not be possible. Our nursery class will therefore not re-open for the remainder of the summer term. We will keep nursery parents up to date with regards to a hopeful return in September.
- Due to the guidelines regarding group sizes and children not mixing with other groups, we are unable to provide breakfast and after school club provision for the remainder of the summer term.

We regret that we have had to reach the above decisions, however safety and the mental wellbeing of our children is very important.

I now have a picture of which of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents would like their children to return if the decision next week is that we move to the next stage. Attendance during summer 2 is non-statutory and the government have made it clear that it is a matter of parental choice. Our phased return will not begin until **week commencing 8th June**. We will provide more information to those year groups regarding the times and days for children to initially attend which, as discussed, will be on a phased/part-time basis, once we are sure of the governments decision next week. We will also confirm more specific details relating to any changes to school routines as well as the steps taken to ensure that we will be working in line with government guidance.

Our provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children remains unchanged from this half term and recommences on 1st June. School will remain closed to all other children at this stage.



We really hope to be able to welcome more children back to school over the course of the next half term. Rest assured that this will continue to be a carefully considered approach, putting the safety and wellbeing of our children, staff & parents/carers at the forefront.

I will be in touch again later next week and in the meantime, I hope you all have an enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr de Castro Morland
Headteacher



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