

## **COVID – 19 Update**

### **Back to School Update:**

As mentioned in my last update, we have now managed to have most of the Year 5 pupils back into school on a part-time basis in addition to Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and the Key Worker groups. Just to give a little more context, this now means we have 20 different groups (bubbles) of children in school and 98% of our school staff now supporting the teaching and learning on the school site. We have staggered start times, break and lunch times and pick up times. Again, I apologise to those of you with children in Year 2, 3 and 4, but we are just not physically able to take back more children. Even with the relaxing of social distancing, the restriction on bubble sizes remains the same and therefore has very little impact on a school our size. (It might mean a smaller school who maybe only had 7 or 8 in a bubble due to the distance rule could increase their bubble size but for us it has no impact in terms of capacity). Please do keep up with the work on the web site and keep emailing for support if needed.

### **New Class Transition:**

Those of you who have had children with us for a number of years will know that we normally have a 'Move-Up' morning. This is essentially a time where the children can move up to their new classes and meet their new teachers. This time is generally used to get to know the teacher and for the teacher to get to know the children.

Although we do not yet know the full extent of what a return to school looks like in September, there is certainly a push by government for this to be on a full-time basis, with some protective measures remaining.

We are well aware that this time will cause some anxiety for our pupils and possibly some parents; those who have managed to return to school for some time and those who may not have had the opportunity. We know that there will be a lot of work to be done in terms of restoring pupil confidence levels, re-socialising with those they haven't seen for a long time and getting back into the school routine. With that in mind, we are going to be using the first 7 days of term as an extended transition period. This time will be used to help all of our children re-adjust to life back in school; to rebuild those peer group relationships and class identities; and to check that we are all ok and ready to restart our in-school learning journeys.

It will be very difficult to introduce pupils to their new teachers before September, particularly with the majority of staff now teaching at school full-time, but we will continue to work on possible solutions. This again, is one of the reasons behind the plans for an extended transition period when we return for the new academic year.

### **Reports**

This year we will be distributing our reports in one of two ways. For those children who are in school, we will be sending home a paper copy as usual. For those who have been unable to return or have chosen not to, we will be emailing reports home. In both cases, a letter from myself will accompany the report, outlining the changes in the report format and indicating your child's new teacher for September. Please do read this letter before you read the report as it will add some context to the report format.

## **Year 6 Woodlands Trip**

We are currently planning for the Year 6 residential trip to Woodlands to go ahead as normal. We have been in touch with the centre and they are looking forward to us visiting them as we have done for the past decade. The likelihood is that the new extended bubble guidelines for September will allow our group to go ahead. We are however aware that things may change going forward and that there may also be some apprehension from children and parents. With that in mind we have agreed with the centre that no decision regarding final numbers will need to be made until the beginning of the new school year and that at that point a full refund, including deposit, would be possible for those who changed their mind at the last minute. We are therefore encouraging as many parents as possible to proceed with payments through the scopay app, in the knowledge that there is no risk in terms of losing money should a change of mind happen. Mrs Rughoobee is preparing Woodlands information packs to be sent out later this week.

## **Year 4 Everdon Trip**

We are currently talking to Everdon regarding the planned trip around October time. We are hoping to have an update on that trip before the end of term.

## **Cabin Club**

We know how much of a need there is for our Wrap Around Care (Cabin Club) and having to temporarily close this facility has been hard. We are still awaiting guidance from the Government as to whether we will be able to provide this service from September. The current guidelines allow us to open if we keep each child within the group they have been in during the day. With over 20 groups of children operating during the day, it is clear why we currently are unable to provide the facility. We are hoping that this guidance may change before September, as if it remains the same we will be unable to open again at the start of the new academic year. Here's hoping for some positive news in the near future.

## **Summer Cabin Club**

We have however been able to offer Cabin Club for part of the Summer holidays. This will operate as two bubbles of children (up to 15 in a bubble). If you are interested in using this facility then please contact Louise Peiton at [cabinclub@longfields-primary.org](mailto:cabinclub@longfields-primary.org). There are only places left for the weeks beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> August. In order to make this feasible there is also a minimum booking of 3 days per week (preferably more). We have decided to run this extra facility as we know many holiday club provisions will not be running and the need will be there. As only 15 pupils over the whole week can be in a bubble we need to insist on at least 3 days a week to cover costs.