



*Learning. Growing. Achieving... Our journey together.*

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Headteacher: Mrs C Crawford Usher

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a detailed review of our risk assessment, Governors voted last night in favour of opening our school to another year group – Year 5. This follows the successful return of many pupils (in smaller classes/bubbles) in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside our existing Keyworker bubble. As we prepare to welcome more children into school next week, we feel this is the right time to say some important Thank Yous.

The whole school team, under Mrs Crawford Usher's leadership, has worked tirelessly since lockdown in March to ensure we continue to provide educational provision and support for children learning at home while planning our back-to-school strategy, supporting our more vulnerable families and keeping our school open for the children of keyworkers. We are extremely proud and appreciative of our superb teaching and support team who have also stepped up to ensure we could continue to provide this service to our community's keyworkers throughout the Easter and May holidays, while juggling their own family demands and personal circumstances.

As you can imagine, the planning and preparation needed for the wider reopening of our school, firstly to Year R, Year 6 and Year 1 children, and now to Year 5 pupils, has been an enormous task involving detailed risk assessments, meetings with governors, changes to layouts, routines, procedures and protocols. At the heart of all the planning, organisation and decision-making has been the safety and wellbeing of our staff and our pupils and this remains the case. We will, with your support, do everything we can to keep our school community as safe as possible.

As much as we would like to, the space restrictions in our school and the government's current social distancing advice mean that, regrettably, we will not be able to safely bring back our current Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils this term. We are obviously monitoring the situation carefully and will update parents as soon as we can about the plans for September. We will do everything possible to get these year groups into school as quickly as possible in the new academic year, when they will be Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils. In the meantime, teachers will continue to provide home learning and support to your child and any additional assistance that you as parents may require to support their learning and wellbeing.

The support from parents throughout the lockdown, and as we have started to implement our back-to-school strategy, has been fantastic and we would like to thank you all for this. Parents continue to play a critical role in this most challenging of situations. We know how difficult home schooling has been and continues to be. Please do ask Mrs Crawford Usher or your child's teacher if you need any further support or advice on any home schooling issue and thank you for persevering with this. Parents have also played a vital part in establishing and maintaining



positive learning routines during lockdown and this will stand children in good stead when they return to school. Again, if any parents are struggling with their child's motivation or engagement, please do contact your child's teacher or our headteacher.

We would also like to thank the parents of those children who have returned to in-school teaching and learning over the last few weeks. Your support and cooperation in observing our new school rules around social distancing and hygiene and reinforcing these with your children remain critical to the safety of the entire school community. For the same reason, thank you for discussing the importance of our behaviour expectations which are designed to keep everyone safe.

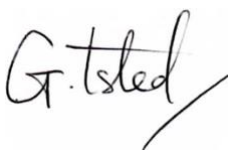
Our final thank you is to our fellow governors who have given up hours of their own time voluntarily throughout lockdown to analyse, discuss and agree detailed back-to-school plans and to keep abreast of the ever-changing situation and guidance, while maintaining strategic oversight of all the usual governing body core business, including finances, staffing, curriculum matters, policies and longer-term planning.

Everyone is doing their best right now – at school and at home – and we can't ask any more of staff, parents or governors. The school will continue to provide as much educational support as possible and we as a governing body will continue to enable the senior leadership team to do whatever is required to achieve this within the national and local guidelines and subject to the strictest health and safety parameters.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support the school's efforts to maintain an educational provision and for continuing to follow government guidelines to help control the virus to help ensure that things improve as soon as possible for us all. By working in close partnership in all the ways outlined above, we will enable the children to 'rebound' from this experience and we will forge a stronger school community as a result.

Stay safe everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Gail Isted  
Co-chairs – Governing Body

Mark Warren