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Parent/Carer Update 5.6.2020

To all Parents/Carers,

Well, that is week one -post lockdown- complete! I don't think I have ever seen so many children this excited to be back! Opening our doors again has been a long time coming and it really was fantastic to see our Y6s and their families at the gate again. There were some amazing lockdown haircuts as well!

How did it go?

Deciding for the Y6s to come back before the other two year groups definitely made a huge difference and allowed us to see what worked well and what needed tweaking. Drop off and collection, for example, went very smoothly and the children followed the social distancing rules really well. I think now that everyone has done it once it will be easier next week and the children have adapted to everything happening at a slower and more considered pace.

Washing hands in our new outdoor sinks, as another example, is now part of the day so being patient and diligent is key. As for the classrooms, quite a few of the children said they loved the smaller groups and enjoyed the activities that had been set. It's early days but our Y6 children and the staff who have been present have shone a light on how we can make it work even better going forward.

If, however, there were some aspects of this week that you wanted to discuss then please drop me an email.

Key worker group

As the number of children returning to school has increased so has the number of children attending our keyworker/vulnerable children provision. Previously we were able to operate as one group but now we have made the decision to operate as two separate bubbles; thus mirroring the practice in school. If your child attends this provision, then they will be in a group and this group will not change.

Next week

As you know, next week we welcome back our FS2 (Reception) and Y1 children. In case you haven't seen it already, please check the timetable for when your child is expected to turn up in the morning and go home in the afternoon. With more parents/carers outside the school gates from Monday it is really important that drop off and collection run on time.

Please accompany your child to the drop off point, wave goodbye and then continue around the one-way system. Please do not wait in the one-way system or on the pavement outside as this will quickly create a cluster of parents/carers and we need to avoid that.

I know it will be hard saying goodbye and 'have a good day' so quickly but we will do our very best to make sure they feel safe and happy as they come in.

Playground markings

On this note, one thing we did discuss this week were playground markings and how we can help the younger children coming in. It's a long way from the double gates to their lines so we thought this might help (see next page):



- **Above left:** Three different trails for the children to follow from the 'drop off' line
- **Above right:** The trails towards the lines
- **Right below:** The trail reaching the line

Hopefully this will make it for fun for the children as make their way across the playground and line up!

Non-attendance

The guidance still remains the same around non-attendance at school and there will be no fines for parents/carers who choose to keep their child at home. However, if your child is classed as vulnerable (Looked After Child, EHCP or Social Care involvement) then there is an expectation from the school and the Local Authority that they do attend. I know Mrs Balfour, for example, has been speaking to different families about this so please let us know if you have changed your mind or you need further support.



I hope you have a lovely weekend and I will see more of you, no doubt, next Monday on the gate!

Best wishes and take care,

Mr I. Johnson