

Weekly Word

18.6.2021

To all Parents/Carers,

We were, like the rest of the country, hoping that 21st June would be the last day of restrictions but we will have to wait a little bit longer for that to happen. That said, the acceleration of the vaccine programme and the increased protection an extra four weeks will supposedly give us, it does seem like a sensible course of action. With this in mind, I hope you and your families are all safe and well.

What does this mean from a school perspective?

This basically means that everything will stay as it is from now until the end of the year e.g. staggered start/end times, staggered lunch times, year group bubbles etc. With restrictions set to end on Monday 19th July, there doesn't seem much point in going back to normal with only four days of the term remaining.

What about typical end of year events like Sports Day and the Summer Fair, will they happen?

We are trying hard to include as many 'end of year/summer term events in the calendar as possible. However some of these events, due to the continuation of Covid restrictions and our own assessment of risk, will look and feel a bit different:

Sports Days	These will go ahead but we will not be allowing parents/carers to attend following our own assessment of risk.
Y6 Transition Days	Sadly these have been cancelled following the secondary schools' own assessment of risk and the recommendations of the Local Authority. We are trying hard to think of another way of doing it.
'Link Up' for new children in FS2	These will go ahead, in some form, but not on the original dates. This follows our own assessment of risk and direction from the Local Authority. Given the extension of the current restrictions we may consider doing something in the summer holidays as we recognise how important it is for parents/carers and their children to see their new setting and speak to the teachers. Sadly we just can't have 60 children and their parents/carers from multiple nurseries all come on to the school premises at the same time. What can be done remotely (e.g. the talks from me, the office staff and current parents) will be done via Microsoft Teams and invites will be sent out accordingly.
Transition days in school (when your child meets their new teacher)	These will go ahead as normal in class bubbles.
Y6 Residential	This will go ahead and will include a day of adventure/outdoor activities followed by a sleepover at school and cooked breakfast in the morning.

Summer Fair	Due to the extension of current restrictions this has now been moved to the final week of the term (date to be confirmed). The PTFA are sending out a newsletter about this and other events they will be running today.
Meet the new teacher (for parents/carers)	This is all scheduled to go ahead but will be done outside and in bubbles. More information to follow.
Y6 end of year production	They are rehearsing this as we speak and details around how you can watch will be sent out soon. The same goes for the Y6 Leavers' Assembly on the last day.
Arts Week	This will go ahead as normal but in bubbles.

In other news, we are just finalising the parent/carers questionnaire which will be sent out with the end of year reports. It's on 'surveymonkey' again so remember to click on the link.

A new section we have added is called 'leavers and keepers'. Essentially we want your feedback on whether to leave or keep something which has happened as a result of Covid restrictions e.g. staggered start/end times, children coming to school in their PE Kits etc. You will also notice that some questions have been removed simply because they haven't been applicable this year. It's quite a long questionnaire but your feedback is more important than ever as we look to return to some kind of normality in September.

Volunteers

And finally, we are looking to recruit a pool of volunteers to assist with some general housekeeping during the first week of the summer holidays (week beginning 26th July). It's a big ask I know but if any parents/carers or family members could spare some time to help us with some lifting/moving of furniture, basic decorating and various other housekeeping activities then drop me an email: head@markeaton.derby.sch.uk. YMCA Derbyshire have already said they will help but we need more as there's lots to do!

Thank you in advance and have a lovely weekend ☺

Mr I. Johnson

