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Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I do hope you are well and starting to enjoy some of the easing of lockdown measures a little bit.

I wanted to write to you today to let you know some of the things we have been doing and some of the plans for September. We are awaiting guidance and information from the Department for Education regarding how we will return in September and we think this will be announced towards the end of this week. As soon as we have full details we will of course let you know.

In the meantime, we have been busy preparing as best we can for our return to school. We have gone through the whole curriculum and created a "Recovery" curriculum which means identifying where the children were in their learning back in March and starting from there. For example, we will focus on numbers in Maths to ensure the children remember and can apply their knowledge and understanding of all 4 operations and place value. We believe that the "catch up", which the government says is needed, will happen by having effective, consistent teaching of the key elements of each subject, quickly identifying areas of difficulty and challenge and putting in support where needed. We will, of course, communicate regularly with parents where we feel additional support might be needed and work with you to support your child in the best way possible.

We have also identified where in the curriculum we can focus on the mental well-being of the children and also how we can make the curriculum more diverse and representative of our community and the different ethnic groups we serve. We will have a strong focus on No Outsiders using the lovely picture books we have purchased. We will also continue our outdoor learning and resume sessions in the allotment and at Forest School. We are so excited about September and having all the children back together again and want to support them with a curriculum that is engaging whilst addressing any needs, worries or concerns that some children might have. All our staff have been taking advantage of online training offers throughout the time we have been closed and these include Makaton, Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma & attachment, various aspects of SEND provision, mental health first aid and lots of different curriculum areas.

We all know that what matters and what will make the difference is to spend time building relationships and reconnecting with each other – staff with staff, staff with children, children with children, staff with parents.

We have been able to continue to provide food hampers each week to those who have needed them thanks to all the generous donations we have received so far. We will be able to continue this through the summer holidays through a mixture of dry food items and vouchers for fresh items. I would like to thank everyone for their donations and to the staff who have made this into a well-oiled machine over the weeks. They have worked so hard going to the supermarkets to buy food, collecting the bread donations each week and delivering to families who could not get to us to collect. We hope to be able to continue to support everyone who needs it from September and so will continue our GoFundMe campaign.

If your financial circumstances have changed and you have perhaps claimed benefits in the last few weeks your children may well be entitled to Free School Meals. PLEASE do apply even if your child is currently in Reception Y1 or Y2 and gets universal free school meals because if they are entitled to them the school will get additional funding until your child leaves the school even if you only claim for a few months!!

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you are able to give us proof that you have been given Free School Meals entitlement before the summer holidays then you will be entitled to a £15 voucher each week for 6 weeks so £90 per child. But we need to know at least by 10<sup>th</sup> July in order to order the vouchers for you.

We continue to take advantage of any funding streams that come our way and these include in the near future donations of devices for families who do not have access to a working device in order for their children to access learning online. We are preparing for any future school closures (we really hope this does not happen!) by having Google Classrooms set up for the whole school. Staff had training in how to use this effectively last week so that we can deliver more online learning in the future if it is needed.

If you are in receipt of benefits and find that you need things like a new fridge or furniture etc please do get in touch because we may be able to apply for items for you. There are pockets of support for families which our school can access because we can act as a referrer.

So we have been very busy getting ready for September!! There will be some changes – as there always are in a new year – but we have tried really hard to ensure that when the children return everything will be as near to normal as possible.

We have decided to turn the ICT Suite into the Reception Class classroom so that they are within the Early Years unit. The Year 3 classroom is to become our new Nurture Room. The Year 2 classroom will become the Year 3 classroom, the Year 1 classroom will become the Year 2 classroom and the Reception classroom will become the Year 1 classroom. So lots of work will need to be done over the summer holidays to get these rooms ready.

We have thought very hard about the transition for children in September. It has been a very different end to this year. All the things we usually do to prepare the children for their next academic year have not happened and we know this will be difficult for them. So we have tried to keep as much consistency for them as possible. This has included thinking about where their classroom is, which teacher/s they will have and which teaching assistants.

Miss Frederick and Mrs Steck-Refoy will be leaving us. I would like to thank them for everything they have done since they joined us in January and wish them every success in their future endeavours. Mrs Weintraub is also leaving us to start her teacher training and we wish her all the best and thank her for her hard work.

And I would also like to welcome Miss Johns-O’Neill and Miss Mills who will be joining us in Y2 and Y5. They will be in contact via Class Dojo very soon to introduce themselves to the children and will be coming in to spend time with us before the holidays as part of their induction.

Children will return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. The new Reception children will be having “play & stays” during the first week before starting properly from 14<sup>th</sup> September. This is because they have not been able to come in during the summer term to get to know the school.

The classes will be as follows from September:

Year Group:	Teacher/s:	Teaching Assistant/s:	Room:
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Nursery	Mrs Debra Pipe	Mrs Shulah Merry Miss Laura Bruce Miss Tyra King	Early Years Unit
Reception	Mrs Debra Pipe	To be appointed	New Reception classroom where the ICT Suite is currently
Year 1 David Attenborough Class	Mrs Rebecca Lewis (Monday Tuesday & Wednesday) Miss Emma-Jane Kelly – Assistant Headteacher (Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Jackie Stoddart	Current Reception classroom
Year 2 Nelson Mandela Class	Miss Carys Johns-O'Neill	Miss Roxana Caba	Current Year1 classroom
Year 3 Marie Curie Class	Miss Olivia Cerullo	Mrs Samra Nazir Miss Jade Sroay	Current Year 2 classroom
Year 4 Gandhi Class	Miss Lauren Russell (Monday Tuesday and Wednesday) Mrs Louise Duke (Thursday & Friday)	Mrs Faiza Anser Mrs Waheeda Begum	Current Year 4 classroom
Year 5 Stephen Hawking Class	Miss Rachel Mills	Mrs Alison Spence	Current Y5 classroom
Year 6 Alan Turing Class	Ms Jo Athill	Mrs Asima Altamash	Current Y6 classroom

Where we have been able to move teachers and teaching assistants up with the class we have done so and Year 3 (current Y2) will also stay in the same classroom.

Mrs Chris Moses will continue to be Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and SEND. Miss Emma-Jane Kelly will continue to be Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning and Curriculum.

The admin team will continue to be Ruth Mills (School Business Manager), Niala Ahmed (Attendance & HR Admin) and Shazia Shahzad (Office Admin).

Mark Harris is the Site Manager – he joined us just before the pandemic hit so I know you will get to know him much better from September.

We also have Helen English joining us for 4 days a week as Lead Practitioner for Mental Health & Well-Being. She will work closely with Mrs Moses and with Mrs Loraine Sandy (our Learning Mentor) as a pastoral team supporting children and parents.

The children's End of Year Reports will be sent out to you via email on Friday. They are quite different this year because we have been unable to give the children an assessment and judgement as to where they are at the end of the year. However, you will have the opportunity of booking a 10 minute Zoom appointment with the teacher if you wish to discuss the report. Details will be with the reports.

I will write again before the end of term to update you on the guidance for September.

Best wishes and take care



**Tracey Griffiths**

**Headteacher**