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June 8th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a good weekend.

We are looking forward to having Year 6 back as our first class from 15th June, providing the rate of infection locally has not risen. We are planning for all year groups to be back with their class teacher at some point this term if at all possible which means that due to the number of classrooms and staff available, the children will attend for two days per week either on Monday and Tuesday or on Thursday and Friday. Teachers will divide each class into two groups taking into account siblings if possible. The classrooms will be deep cleaned on Wednesdays. As we know that the children will want to be with their own class teacher, the class teacher(s) and teaching assistant will be teaching all the children in their own class but in two different groups. We have chosen to do it like this because we do not have enough staff or space to cover 16 different groups (7 classes divided into two groups of 15 pupils, plus the two key worker groups).

The KS1 and KS2 key worker groups will continue all week as they have done in previous weeks. Unfortunately, children cannot move between groups at the moment so if you need childcare for the whole week, your child will not be able to attend the class group for the two days then return to the key worker group for the remaining three days. As the numbers in our key worker groups have expanded please ensure you inform us by Thursday at 3.15pm if you want to change the arrangements for your child for the following week.

The decision about your child returning to school rests with you as parents and we completely support any parents who choose to keep their child at home. Home learning will still be provided for all year groups throughout this term. Class teaching will cover similar content to the home learning materials.

There has been some very detailed planning involved in preparing the school and staff so that we can create the best environment possible, which included a staff training day last Monday. I feel confident that we have a robust risk assessment which is being constantly updated. As well as consulting the National Association of Headteachers, I have been in contact with Public Health England to clarify aspects of our risk assessment.

Year 6 parents will have a short questionnaire to complete before Wednesday so that we can organise the two groups for next week. This will be emailed later today.

The next year group that we hope to have back on June 22nd is Year 5. The reason for this is firstly because we feel they are mature enough to be able to maintain social distancing better than the youngest children. It is also so that the children have an opportunity to do the CAT4



tests before taking the Kent Test in September. These tests are an important indicator for parents on any areas that the children might need to work on and in order to have these test scripts externally marked in time, the children will need to do them in the next couple of weeks. Parents in Year 5 will also be sent a survey today to help with our planning for the return of their children.

Providing rates of COVID-19 do not increase locally, we will extend the opening to more classes the week after. Please remember, if your child is in Wrens and Jays, we can accommodate a few more children in our key stage one group if you need to return to work and do not have alternative childcare.

We are all looking forward to seeing more children back in school. I am attaching a summary of our risk assessment and the preparation for re-opening school with this letter so that you are clear on how we are minimising any risks. Although it may seem like the school environment is quite different, I would like to reassure you all that I feel confident that your child will be made to feel safe and nurtured when they return and have a positive school experience. We have had children in school for the past ten weeks and the children have not only had a good time but we have not had any incidents of illness. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information about our decision or arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Al Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Alison Higgins