

12 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so good to see numbers growing as more children have returned to our schools this week. Our wonderful Headteachers and staff have been so excited to see your children after such a long break. Please keep considering when the time is right for your Year 6 or Year 1 child to return.

On Tuesday 9th June, the government dropped the plans for all England's primary children to return for a month before the summer break. This is sad news yet we do understand and feel relieved. The demands of social distancing in classroom spaces would make it impossible to manage the return of all our children.

Plans for next week:

- We shall continue to welcome Year 6, Year 1, the children of critical care workers and our vulnerable pupils in each school. Please remember to give 24 hours' notice if you want to book a place for your child to return.
- Dudley Wood is getting back up to speed after a water issue limited the ability to open this week. Both Year 6 and Year 1 will come back in from Monday 15th June.

During next week we shall have a leadership meeting to discuss the rest of the children. We shall get a view of the need for Reception places to enable our EYFS children to return where it is safe and possible to do so. We do still have staff unable to work due to self-isolation and instances of shielding, so this will need to be taken into account for each school.

We shall also discuss what events we can safely offer to encourage other children to be able to experience school in some shape or form. We do believe that waiting until September is not only too long but also very stressful for families. These may be small and simple activities like a weekly outdoor PE lesson or a picnic in a small 'bubble'. While we do want to see as many children as possible, we shall continue to take a measured and careful approach to the increasing return of the children. We shall not do anything that could possibly put any child, parent or member of staff at any form of risk.

As we say in every letter, we still totally support parents in making their best decision for their own family. Every parent must do what they are confident to do as we start this important return to school.

Please let your school know what you are thinking, what you want for your child/children and continue to be in touch about any questions or queries you have.

Take care and keep safe!

Claire Thompson
Acting CEO