



Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well. It seems that life is slowly beginning to get back to normal. Who knew three months ago that getting a hair cut would be something to desperately look forward to ☺ (4th July!)

Year 6 and Year 1 are now settled back into school life and they all seem to be enjoying the experience so far. Next week, sees the return of Reception children to school as per the Government's directives. We are in the process of gaining a clear idea of the numbers of parents who require places for their children; however, numbers are limited due to staff levels and available space. Parents of eligible children will be told their child's 'bubble' group on Tuesday next week, ready for their return to school on Wednesday 24th June.

If you have a child in Reception, please complete the place booking form emailed home, to let us know your intentions. Please check your inbox, junk, spam and clutter for an email from a company called Kuwanda for the form you need to complete and submit. This is still entirely your choice and there are no penalties or negative consequences if you choose to keep your child at home.

Full re-opening

The school will be closed for the summer holidays and will not be open in any capacity (this includes for Keyworkers). This is to ensure we can adequately clean and make preparations for a presumed wider return of pupils in September. We have been given no new information from the Government on their plans to re-open. Sadly, schools only find out information from the televised briefings, just like everyone else! When we know the plans we will keep you informed of the next steps.

School Meals

The Government has recently announced (after pressure from Premier League footballer, Marcus Rashford) that the Free School Meals vouchers scheme will continue over the six week break. If you are already enrolled in the scheme, then this will simply continue as normal. If you think your circumstances may have changed and you now need this provision, then please apply online at: <https://customer.dudley.gov.uk/free-school-meals/create/> I believe that this provision will then be backdated to March 20th which was the start of the Coronavirus closure period.

For those children attending school, we are pleased to be able to offer hot meals for all pupils that require one from **Monday 29th June – a week on Monday**. These will be in the form of basket meals that will be taken to classrooms. Unfortunately, the menu will be limited to only one hot choice per day. If children do not like the option for that day, then they will need to bring in their own sandwiches or choose the 'Grab Bag' sandwich option from the canteen. More details will follow on the daily menu choices next week.

Year 6

The school office has been in touch with Year 6 families regarding the ordering of leavers sweatshirts etc. to mark the end of their time at Netherbrook. We are also planning their 'Leavers Event', we will communicate these plans to parents when we have confirmed them. Any events may have to be held in September and we would ask all of our Year 6 parents to try and bring the children back in for anything we are able to plan. It would be a shame to let the children leave without celebrating the occasion with you all.

Year Group Transition

As a MAT, we are discussing plans to bring back each class for a session to meet their new teachers, before we break up for the summer. This might be in the form of a class picnic on the field or small groups coming into unused classes – however, we need to ensure safety rules can be followed at all times, so we will have to organise these events with that in mind. Therefore, all of this remains to be confirmed.

Most of our usual year group transition events will now be held in September, and we will ensure that children are suitably supported when they are due to return.

The pupils' end of year reports are now written and being proof read for any errors. These will be available for collection from Friday 10th July. Sadly, we can't post them out due to the high costs, so we will create appointment slots for parents to come and collect safely from the school office.

Home Learning

Just a reminder to say that all children not attending school every day should still be completing their home learning packs every week. It is vital that these are completed as well as possible, so that our pupils have the best chance to catch up to their previous levels when they return.

Help

Staff are still available via email. Additionally, the teachers will be contacting all children in their classes over the next few weeks to see how they are and offer some reassurance and a friendly voice. If you see a withheld number on your mobile or house phone, then this may be us trying to contact you.

If you need to talk to anyone in school about anything that we may be able to help with then please do call. The school office number is **01384 818415**. We are here to help in any way that we can during these challenging times.

Hopefully we will see you all again soon. I will be in touch with further updates over the next few weeks.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

P Rawlings

Mr P Rawlings

Headteacher