Dear Parents/Carers,

We’ve had some lovely feedback so far about the return to school letter, and we’ve also had a few questions that I thought you might all want to know the answers to!

**Will the children and staff be wearing masks?**

We have been advised by the Government **not** to wear masks/PPE unless dealing with a toileting accident or a tumble. In the documentation it also states children do not need to wear them.

**Will my child be with a friend?**

Once we get a list of returning children, the class teachers will split them into ‘bubbles’ of fifteen children. We will try where possible to friendship group (assuming their friends are returning also). We want it to be as stress free as possible for children.

**Will my child be with their teacher?**

Unfortunately the ‘bubbles’ can only have 15 children in them. We need 18 bubbles to accommodate Nursery, Reception and Year 1. We don’t have enough space or staff to accommodate this so we can only have 12. Bubbles will also be run by HLTA’s/TA’s from across the whole of school (including Y2 teachers who won’t have Y2 children in school). We also have staff that can’t return to school for their own health reasons. So we apologise that it is unlikely they will have their own teacher.

**Do I have to send my child back?**

No! The Government has said that there will not be fines for non attendance and so the return of your child is entirely up to you. Many parents have decided to keep their children at home.

**Can you guarantee that my child will be 100% safe at school?**

Unfortunately, against COVID-19, my honest answer is no. We will be putting in all possible safety measures and following Government guidelines and risk assessments but if a child or member of staff has the virus and it is brought into school, I cannot prevent this.

**Will there be breakfast club/after school club?**

Unfortunately for the foreseeable future we cannot offer these clubs for a variety of reasons. All children attending school must be in their bubble of 15 only and not mix with others so this could mean children from 7 bubbles want to come to the clubs. The fact we cannot physically staff this is the main reason.

**Will my child still be sent work through Tapestry/DOJO if my child doesn’t return?**

We will be using all members of staff in school to be responsible for the bubbles of children. They will need to plan, teach, mark work and care for these children every day. Staff can’t then be expected to go home and do all this again for children at home. The Government has acknowledged this and have included it in the guidance. There will obviously still be Tapestry and DOJO to show us what your child has been doing – we’d still love to see!

**Will the children be kept two metres apart?**

The honest answer is it is unlikely! We will put measures in wherever possible, but we all know that trying to stop a 3 year old cuddling your leg or licking your hand is near on impossible! We will be constantly cleaning areas and asking children to wash hands and children will be sat apart whilst eating dinner. We will endeavour to do our best for social distancing.

**My child has asthma – should they return?**

The guidelines state that children or adults that are clinically vulnerable should stay at home if possible. If returning they should keep a distance of two metres away from others and follow all measures and precautions in place. If you are unsure – please ask your doctor for medical advice. It is then totally your choice as to whether you send your child.

**Do you think it will affect my child’s mental health?**

Sadly, the return to school won’t be to a place that the children are used to. They will probably be in a totally different area of school and with an adult that they possibly won’t have been taught by. There will be restrictions, less toys, removal of ‘soft fabric

based’ items plus more and it would be wrong for me to say that this won’t affect young children. We as a school will obviously do our best to make this as easy as possible for the children and will focus as much time as possible on the children’s emotional needs, but they may find it all a bit strange. There will still be lots of laughter!

**Will my child fall behind if they don’t come back to school in June?**

For the last eight weeks children have been working at home…some will have loved this and done loads! Some will have refused to do anything and there will be many children inbetween! When we return to teaching the curriculum, teachers will assess children and continue their education.

Please don’t send your child back for purely educational reasons. Young children will be emotionally vulnerable at the moment. They have spent 8 weeks with you and the transition back may be difficult. We will help children with this transition and have plenty of experience to pull on.

**Will Key Worker’s children in Y1 and Y2 still be able to attend?**

Yes – Key Worker children who are in Nursery and Reception will join their year groups. Children in Y1 (if not returning as a year group) and Y2 will be together in one bubble.

I really hope that this may have answered some of your questions – please don’t hesitate to email or ring if there is something you would like to ask.

Take care…

Susie Kirby

Headteacher