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Dear Parents,

Who is going to return to school this term?

I imagine that you have all seen or heard in the news that the government's plan for all primary school children to return before the end of term has been dropped. Initially, they wanted all primary school children to return for at least four weeks before the summer break. They now recognise that this is not feasible. Due to the social distancing rules, even if all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children returned we would not be able to accommodate them due to staffing and the number of classrooms.

So it is with great sadness that I have tell you that we will not be able to welcome back children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. I am sorry that those children have not had the opportunity of any face-to-face time with their teachers or friends in school for a number of months.

We are currently running four bubbles for children of keyworkers, Reception and Year 1 and hope to welcome back Year 6 children for some of the term so that they at least get the chance for closure of their time at primary school which spans 7 years. Unfortunately they are going to miss out on a lot of the usual experiences of our previous Year 6 children.

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, Dolce have had to close the kitchen. Grab bags may still be ordered as they are being delivered from another school. If children forget their packed lunch, we do not have the facility to order an extra school lunch or make one, we will need to phone parents to bring a packed lunch up to school.

Is support for home-schooling going to continue?

Throughout these times, all our teachers and teaching assistants have been in school working with children on a rota basis, which has allowed them to continue to offer support for parents in home-schooling. As of 22nd June, all of our teachers and teaching assistants, apart from those who are shielding, will be working in school on a full timetable with the children in school.

The government and local authority have advised that we are not required to plan home learning for Years 2 to 5, but that we should signpost you to online learning such as BBC Bitesize and the Oak

Academy (for which you have been sent links before). We are hoping to be able to continue to do more than this, as we know that many of you have appreciated the home learning and many children have sent us lovely examples of what they have done. Teachers are fully committed to providing home learning for your children, and we will continue to do our best to provide this.

Teachers are also committed to answering your emails and running some google meet sessions. As we have adapted how we keep in touch through the lockdown, the teachers have thoroughly enjoyed speaking to the children by phone or via Google Meet. Please do carry on using the teacher email addresses and getting in touch to share your children's work. However, teachers will not be able to respond as quickly as they have in the past, as they will be working with children in school.

We will continue to update our Facebook page, the photo gallery on the school website will be slightly more tricky to update due to the time that the teachers will have left after being in school, planning home-school activities and running Google meets.

From the conversations that I have had with the teachers and some parents, you have all done a fantastic job of supporting your children at home, for which I thank you. If you require extra exercise books, please contact the office to arrange to pick them up.

What are the plans over the summer and September?

We know how frustrated you must be feeling right now after such an extensive period of home-schooling. We share your frustration and cannot wait to welcome the children back to school when we are told that we are allowed. Last week Boris Johnson suggested there would be some kind of summer catch-up, we currently have no information on what that entails but will keep you informed when we are told about this. Unfortunately we have no idea what the plans are for September, as soon as we are given information, we will start planning accordingly and let you know as soon as we possibly can.

We are working with a large group of schools across the Local Authority to develop a 'Recovery Curriculum' that focusses on the children's mental health and wellbeing and making up for time that has been lost in school. They will need to learn to socialise again with a larger group, to share and focus their concentration; we will make sure that our curriculum will reflect that.

In preparation for the children's move up to the next class in September, our teachers are planning on including a 'move-up/transition' activity on the weekly grid of the week beginning 29th June. This will be planned by their next classteacher. We usually have 'move-up' morning in school whereby the children get to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom. Whilst the children are unable to visit their new classroom, we can facilitate them meeting their new teacher. Therefore during the week of 6th July, invites to a Google Meet session will be sent out by their new teacher. This leaves the final week for a Google Meet session with their current teacher which will provide an opportunity for the children to say goodbye.

I can now confirm that the teachers are as follows for September:

Reception – Mrs Wilton and Mrs Ithier

Year 1 – Mr Bailey

Year 2 – Miss Marriott

Year 3 – Mrs Hillocks & Miss Harriman

Year 4 – Mrs Peachey & Mrs Burch

Year 5 – Mr Clee
Year 6 – Mrs Duncan

Over the summer holiday we are going to be having a significant amount of work going on to replace our boilers and all of the pipework. In order to prepare for this, we are going to need to have Friday 17th July as an INSET day – this will replace the INSET that had to be cancelled earlier in the year. Therefore the last day for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be Thursday 16th July.

Again, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you all. Throughout this time, we have received some wonderful messages from you which have been a real 'pick-me-up' on some very challenging days.

Take care and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Robson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kirsty Robson