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Monday 15th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update #9

Thank you for continuing to read these weekly updates. This Head Teacher Update contains important information regarding our plans for all year groups between now and the end of term.



Year 5 returning to school

Following the success of re-introducing Year 6 to school we are inviting Year 5 children to start back at school from Tuesday 23rd June. Please note the following:

- The Year 5 children will be organised into bubbles of no more than 15 children, as per the Year 6 children.
- As for the Year 6 children, Year 5 will only be allowed to play, learn and 'do school' with the children and adults in their bubble. We will send details of the organisational details separate to this Update.
- The teachers linked to each bubble are: Mrs Mitchell, Miss Loudon, Mrs Barrett and Mrs Alder/Mrs Barker.
- In-school learning for Year 5 children will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For Thursday and Friday we will set Home Learning.
- This return to school model for Year 5 will end on Wednesday 15th July.
- To help us plan for the return of Year 5 children we are asking all Year 5 parents to complete a short survey via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VH7HBBF>

Year 3 and Year 4 returning to school

Unfortunately we simply do not have the resources (staff, premises, safeguarding assurance) to return Year 3 and Year 4 to school for a significant period of time this side of the summer holidays. We will continue to set Home Learning activities for all children not in school.

In the absence of clear guidance from the DfE / government on re-opening schools you will no doubt hear of different schools putting into place a wide variety of different return-to-school plans. A key element of health advice from the DfE is that children and adults do not cross between bubbles. Our plan enables as many of our pupils as possible to return without compromising the integrity of our bubbles.

We do appreciate that not being able to return Year 3 and Year 4 to school for a significant period of time before the summer holidays will be a disappointment to many parents and children. However we have planned in a few days when Year 3 and Year 4 can return (see below re Sports Days and Bump-Up Days).

Year 3, 4, 5 children - Key Workers

Our Key Worker bubble (now known as the Fantastic Foxes) has continued to expand since the half-term break. If you are a Key Worker and have a need for your child to return to school do let us know by contacting Mrs Barker.



IMPORTANT – Change to End Of Term Dates, and Bump-Up Days

- (i) The school year will finish for Year 6 children on Friday 17th July. This is in line with other schools in Godalming.
- (ii) The school year will end for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 on Wednesday 22nd July, as planned.
- (iii) Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd July: These days are being used as transition / Bump-Up Days. Our new Year 3 and current Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children will be invited in to school to say 'farewell' to their current teacher and to meet their new teacher for the next academic year. Timings and organisational details for these days will be issued in due course.

Most other schools in Godalming are following a similar model for the end of term.

Sports Days for all year groups

As sporting activities can take place outside (where the C19 risk is much lower) we have decided to hold a Sports Day event for each year group. These will be for children only - sorry, but no spectators on this occasion. We will send out safety information for you to read before you decide whether to send your child in for their Sports Day event.

The dates are thus:

Year 3 : Thursday 2nd July (morning)

Year 4 : Thursday 2nd July (afternoon)

Year 5 : Wednesday 1st July (morning)

Year 6 : Wednesday 1st July (afternoon)

Inset Days – Academic Year 2020/21

Please note that we are sharing a number of inset days with all schools in the Godalming Learning Partnership (GLP). This is so all GLP schools can participate in shared training. The Inset Days for the next academic year are as follows:

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Thursday 5th November 2020

Monday 4th January 2021

Friday 26th February 2021

Friday 28th May 2021

This date is now NOT set aside as an Inset Day : 29th September 2020.

'Test and Trace'

In line with government advice we are co-operating with the 'Test and Trace' initiative. Please refer to the email sent home to parents on Friday 12th June to see our procedures around this in school.

Reading Books

We have been asked to make school reading books available for use at home. We have started with year 3 and are seeing how it goes. From last Tuesday 9th June, we are placing reading books for year 3 out by the front gate - books will be put out on a Tuesday from 9am until 3.30pm. Our new library will run for class 3B in the morning from 9am - midday, and for class 3W from 12.30pm - 3.30pm in the afternoon. Feel free to pop along and take a couple home and bring them back the following week leaving them by the front gate. Please respect safe distancing when selecting books, and ensure books are returned having been wiped down with anti-bac. We do need the books to be returned as a lot of money has been spent by the school and fundraised by the Friends PTA to provide these books.

ELSA Resources

As the amount of time away from school increases, we are aware that some children have been struggling with their feelings around the virus and its impact on their lives. The Surrey Educational Psychology Service have recommended a book, Coronavirus by Axel Scheffler, which can be accessed by the following web link. <https://axelscheffler.com/books-for-older-children/coronavirus>. This might be a helpful way for you as parents to talk



to children and allow them to ask questions. Mrs Brockman, our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) has also prepared a document, attached to this e mail, with some links which you may find useful.

New exercise books needed?

Please remember that if you need one, we have a plastic box left by the school gates daily for you to collect a new exercise book within school hours. There are a selection of lined, squared and plain books available.

Hardship

We are very aware of the negative impact this shut down will be having on families in many ways, especially financially. Those families who meet the threshold to receive 'free school meals' due to their income, benefits etc. are receiving some extra support. If you are experiencing hardship but don't previously qualify as 'free school meals' do get in touch as we may be able to arrange some support for you, or you may now qualify for entitlement to 'free school meals' support.

Please remember that If you have a Safeguarding concern around any child please contact us or Surrey Children's Services: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-services> or phone 0300 470 9100.

Finally, if your child has returned to school please do remind them about safe distancing when out and about away from school (e.g. when walking home or on Busbridge Rec). The good work at school may be nullified if the children do not observe safe distancing away from school. Thank you.

With best wishes,



Richard Catchpole (Head teacher)

