



PARK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr P Griffin

Dear Parents and Carers,

10 June 2020

I hope that you are all keeping well and have adjusted to this sudden cold snap in the weather - we seem to have been spoilt with the lovely sunny days! I just wanted to write a few words to keep you up to date with what has been going on in school and some next steps.

Firstly, we have been frantically busy getting ready to re-open for the eligible year groups of children. This has required totally reconfiguring the school and its contents. The staff have sorted and reorganised everything that they needed for the next few weeks and the rest has been packed up and put into storage until we can welcome more children back in school. The reason for this was it was the only way we could accommodate the 2-metre social distancing requirement around school. All of the children returning have been placed into small teaching 'Bubbles' and have been allocated new classroom bases. All the corridors have been split for one-way traffic and everything not moving has been labelled with a social distance sticker of some sort! The staff have produced a new curriculum and as of Monday 15th June, we will be ready to accept children of the eligible year groups.

We would like to confirm with that we will begin to start welcoming children back to school from Monday 15th June.

Year 1 will return Monday 15th June

Year 6 will return Monday 15th June (all four 'Bubbles' will return on this date)

Reception will return Wednesday 17th June

Please note that all of the information you have already been sent still applies – it is important you stick rigidly to the start and ending time for your child so we can limit social interaction between 'Bubbles'.

Pre-school will be re-opening on Wednesday 17th June. The provision available is very limited and if you responded to the questionnaire, you will receive an email copy of the letter by Friday 12th June with information with the sessions which we are able to offer those children. Key worker children will continue with their days and hours. Therefore, by Wednesday, everyone who is returning will be back in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight and praise the 'key worker' children who have attended school since lockdown officially started. They have shown amazing resilience and care, and some amazing friendships have grown. For these children, they have been through a real journey, and we are immensely proud of them and have loved having them in school (as they will continue to be). We feel great satisfaction that by accommodating these children in a happy and safe place, their parents have been able to make a real difference in the battle against Coronavirus. Thank you to all key workers!

From Monday, we expect our plans to run smoothly and the children will begin to get used to being in their seats at a desk and even having their lunches at their own classroom tables. As you can imagine, the staff will make every effort to make it as fun as possible for the children, and we will work to eradicate any 'teething' problems that arise.

There is one major problem, however. Our children and families from Years 5, 4, 3 and 2 are not back here with us. We will not settle until we are back together as a whole school and fully reunited. It will be lovely to see more children in school from next week but in a funny way, it will also remind us all the more of those who still cannot return. We certainly have not forgotten about you and we are still working on ways that we can keep involved in the children's lives until they come back to us. The new and improved Home Learning Projects is just one way we are trying to help.

At the moment, every teacher and member of staff is now fully committed with a class. We only have one spare classroom and no spare adults at all and until the government are able to relax the social distancing measures, we are going to really struggle to have more children back. Moving forward, the main things that have risen to the top of our to do list are now to:

- Look at ways to maintain regular contact with our 'stay at home families', particularly when all staff are back in class.
- Look at ways that we can provide help for families facing difficulty.
- Continue to look at ways of ensuring that the studying we are setting for home learning remains interesting and challenging.
- Look at ways that we can plan for transition in readiness either for a return to school for larger numbers of children should that be the case this term which looks increasingly unlikely, or for a transition into a new year group in the Autumn Term.

Over the past weeks we have overcome a mountain of challenges we never thought we would have to consider, and I have every confidence that we will be able to do the same over the coming weeks in continuing to offer support to you all. In the meantime, if we can be of any help please do not hesitate to let us know either through the main school office, or Class Dojo. Just be aware though that it might take us a little longer to respond than we have done up until now because of the new roles the staff have taken on in school.

We will be in touch again as soon as I have any further updates.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr Lawrence
Deputy Headteacher