10th June 2020

Dear Parent/ carers

It has now been almost 12 weeks since school closed for most pupils. Throughout this time the school has remained open for key worker children and some assessed pupils.

Last week we opened for pupils in Reception, year 1 and year 6. Not all parents sent their child back but those children who have returned have settled really well in to new life at school.

Last night the government announced that it would be unlikely schools could extend the current provision before the end of the summer term. The reasons for this are the safety measures the DFE have outlined create challenges on space and resources. For instance, you are advised to have a sink or access to handwashing facilities in each room you use. Toilets are also advised not to be used by different classes ‘bubbles’ of children or if they are used, they are to be wiped down and cleaned after each use. Also, a 2m distance between children is advised. This means most classrooms could only accommodate a maximum of 7/8 children at one time. The government also advised not to use rotas and keep the same set ‘bubble’ of children in one group with the same staff which limits the way we can stagger children back.

We have managed to put all these measures in place really well with the children and groups that have returned. However, this would prove difficult if we were to extend the provision safely if the guidance and social distancing stays the same. Due to this at present we have no plans to extend our current provision before September. We will review this each week based on advice from NCC, government and the DFE.

Many parents have contacted me about what will happen in September, how will school look and will all children return? At present we do not know the answers to these questions. There are many positives though as we can see more and more things are starting to return to normal and we are hoping this applies to schools too.

Many parents are contacting me now about worries about their child falling behind and missing out on education. We really understand this concern. Lots of people all across the country worry about this and we are all in the same situation. We are sending daily ideas, we have provided work books, online there are lots of resources and games to not only keep your child occupied but help them with their basic skills. None of this replaces the face to face contact and teaching a normal school brings and we thank you all for managing so well during such a difficult and long time.

This week we have been sending ideas for a virtual sports day and we are adding this to the website each day. Ideas are also being sent via text. You can email staff or myself any time and staff will continue to contact you on the phone.

We would like to thank you all for your support and patience during this time.

Mrs Marianne Allan