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Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Monday our Infant School building came back to life, as we started welcoming our returning year 1 children. It was an absolute joy to see them, and their parents/carers. Three days in and the new cocoons are working well, with the staff feeling very happy about how the phased reopening is working.

The second week for our returning year 6 children has continued to be a success, with a few additional children joining the cocoons. As of Monday, we now have a specific key stage 2 critical worker provision located in the Junior building. This too has been working very well.

We are busily planning the return of the Reception children next Monday 22nd June. There are more Reception children returning than the other two year groups. We are confident this will also run smoothly and we will keep you all posted.

I will continue with some of the Frequently Asked Questions we have been receiving recently:

Will you be opening your nursery before the summer holidays?

I apologise for not providing specific nursery information in my last letter. As we are using the nursery building for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 critical worker provision, we do not have the capacity to have our nursery children return this side of the summer holidays. If government guidance changes significantly, we will reconsider this position and let you know.

Will you be opening years 2, 3, 4 or 5 before the summer holidays?

As some of you may have noticed, the government made it clear yesterday, it is happy for schools to open to more children, if they have the capacity to do so. Capacity of space, and staff, are our school's main obstacles when it comes to this issue. We have a number of staff who are currently unable to return to school. In addition, we have had to spread existing staff across our reception, year 1, year 6 and critical worker cocoons, to meet the requirements of social distancing in schools.

However, we are exploring plans which may allow us to have some additional children in. We will write to you again next week with more details.

Last week I let you know that Rosie, our SENCO, is arranging meetings for all parents of children on the SEND register. Just to clarify, these meetings will be with class teachers, over the phone, rather than with Rosie herself. However, Rosie, has met with all class teachers to discuss provision for all SEND children in the school recently in support of these meetings with parents.

In other news...

Some of you may know about Markfield. It is a fantastic resource, and community hub, focussed on inclusive support for children and families living with issues of disability and autism. Many of our families, past and present, have used Markfield. Unfortunately, there was fire in their playground recently which caused extensive damage. We have provided a link to their Go Fund Me page for those interested in supporting them with donations to rebuild their playground.

Markfield Playground fund

Yours sincerely,

Just

Ian Scotchbrook

Headteacher