



19th June 2020

Dear Parents

Since half-term, it has been lovely to welcome more children back into our nursery, reception and years one and six. The atmosphere within each of the bubbles is lively and it is clear that those children are enjoying being back at school. A huge thank you to all the parents who have kindly abided by the drop-off and collections times, as well as keeping to the one way system and social distancing around the outside of the school. The take-up of children returning has been growing steadily within all of these year groups and we now have most of our bubbles full.

We were all very disappointed that there is no longer a plan for more children to return before the summer holidays. We had hoped that the guidance from the government would be altered and somehow there would have been a way for more year groups to return, but this now seems unlikely. New guidelines issued last week indicated that primary schools can now be flexible to accommodate more year groups, but that is only possible where there is space within individual schools and generally where the take up of the other year groups (YN, YR, Y1 and Y6) has been low. Both the government and the Local Authority have made it clear that we are not to close any of our YN, YR, Y1 or Y6 bubbles early to allow other children to attend.

At the same time as welcoming back more children, we have had an increase in the number of key worker parents asking about places for their children. We are only able to offer a place where both parents are key workers due to our limits in terms of both space and staffing. Unfortunately, we are now having to place some children of key workers in different year groups because their year group bubble is already full (has 15 children). We currently have 18 bubbles operating.

We understand that this has been, and continues to be a difficult time for many families and we appreciate that working from home whilst trying to support your children with their home learning has not been easy. If you are finding the home learning on our website difficult to access, then please let us know.

At the moment we do not know what the government's plans are going forward, other than the statement made late yesterday that there will be a £1 bn catch-up tutoring fund for England's pupils. No firm details have been released. Once we have any further information, we will communicate to you our plans for the summer and the arrangements for next term.

Some parents have asked me about the missed parent/teacher consultation that was due to have taken place last March and whether reports are still being sent out. The question of how transition will be managed has also been raised.

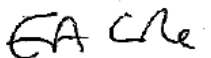


All teachers are currently preparing reports for all children and these will be going out on the 10th July. The reports will reflect the child attainment pre lockdown. If a child has an IEP, then a telephone call will be made by that child's class teacher prior to you receiving the report to discuss current targets and any concerns you may have. If a teacher needs to discuss something specific on a child's report then an additional phone call may be made. Some of these calls have already taken place.

Normally we would have a transition week for children to get to know their new teacher and their new classroom. Unfortunately this is not possible this year, so we have asked your child's current teacher to write a letter to your child and let them know who their new teacher is, who the other adults are in the class and the name of their new classroom. Teachers and teaching assistants have been working hard on the class lists making sure that all children have at least one friend in their new class. We are also asking your child's new teacher to write a short letter introducing themselves (excluding Y6). Both these letters will be enclosed with your child's report.

If you have any further questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office secretary@owlsmoorprimary.com and we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely



E A Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher