

MESSAGE FROM MRS MONEY



Thursday 4th June 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a relaxing half term. The wonderful weather really made it feel like we were on holiday and my whole family certainly enjoyed a week off from the children's home learning schedules!

This week we have opened Sandringham for the first time since lockdown started just over 70 days ago. I cannot begin to explain how amazing it felt to open up the gates and see the children's smiling faces again after so long. The staff and many parents found this quite an emotional moment. To help ease any feelings of nerves and worry for everyone we decided to open our gates with music, dancing, smiles and a bubble machine. Thank you for your lovely comments and feedback about how successful you felt this was for both you and your children... the staff have asked to carry on opening school like this every day!

This moment of joy is however mixed with a level of sadness too, as this week we have only had the chance to spend time with just 60 of our children. The KITE trust strategy is that we are to initially open for keyworker children, children with EHCP (Education Health Care Plans) and vulnerable children only. These children have an allocated 'bubble' and remain in this group for the whole time they are in school. Due to the small classroom sizes themselves, these groups cannot exceed 13 children. This means that as long as the current Government guidelines are in place I am unable to 'fit' all of the children back in school.

There have been many questions and phone calls to the school office regarding keyworker spaces. I thought it would be useful to remind you of the communications which have been sent to parents and explain why we are now no longer able to accommodate any more requests for keyworker children to return to school.

On 15th May a survey was sent from the KITE asking for an expression of interest of the need for school places. This was followed by a survey on the 20th May specifically asking for a commitment from keyworker parents. Reminders to complete this survey were sent on the 21st May and 26th May. Reminders were also posted on the PTA facebook group. **ALL** of the parents who responded to this keyworker survey on 20th May have been offered places in school. We also extended the deadline by a week and have been able to offer places to anyone responding by 1st June. We have now moved on to wave 2 and have allocated spaces to the Reception children who are coming back next week.

I feel it is important to be honest with you and manage your expectations for returning to school. Despite the news saying that all Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children will be back at school from next week I will have used all of my available staff and all of my available classrooms (including the school hall). Classes will therefore be half the size they were before and can only accommodate half the number of children. We have now reached full capacity.

Only 1 of my own 3 children is likely to be returning to school before September so I really do share in any feelings of sadness and disappointment. As a Headteacher I am genuinely sorry that not all of your children are being given the choice to return to school, however these measures are essential in ensuring everyone's safety.

Wave 2 of the KITE strategy is to open up the school for Reception children who are not already accessing school as a keyworker child. All Reception parents will have received a phone call from the office team or Miss Randles this week confirming if you would like to accept this place. You will receive a letter tomorrow confirming the 'bubble' your child will be joining from Monday 8th June. You will also receive a letter outlining timings for drop off and pick up, what to bring, uniform, lunches etc. **It is essential that you read this letter carefully!**

Please note there are staggered drop off and collection times to enable parents to socially distance and a one-way system in place. School will also be closed after lunch time on Fridays to allow staff to deep clean and plan for the following week.

Home learning will continue to be sent home via email on Fridays prior to the week ahead. If your child is in school this will be completed during the school day as far as possible. The expectation is that children who remain at home will continue to complete the weekly tasks set by the class teacher. Please continue to respond on Tapestry and send emails to the teachers but be mindful that all staff are now teaching full time so they will not be able to respond in the same way that they have been able to previously.

However, if your child is not in school please do not feel that they are not still very much part of our school family. Their education and emotional well-being remains a priority and we will continue to support you in the best way we can. I appreciate that this continues to be a challenging time for many of you so please continue to reach out to us if you need support in any way.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or the school office.

Kind Regards
Mrs Money