

Headteacher's Blog July 2020

Bubble Expansion

From 6th July, Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 classes will become their own bubbles. The Time Zone bubble will be full (15 pupil maximum) from Monday and we are on track to offer any remaining Y3/4 pupils a place from 13th July in Earth Works.

September

Following Government guidance, school will be fully open for all pupils from September. Please let me know if you think this will not be possible for your child/children.

We are starting to get more clarity about how we need to operate. In fairness, much will be the same as it has been for us over the last few weeks. Having checked with the Diocesan Education Department, I am expecting that we will operate as two 'bubbles'. Pupils will usually be taught in their smaller class 'bubbles' of less than 20, but will be able to use school transport and outdoor spaces as a bubble of less than 30 for EYFS/KS1 and a bubble of 36 for KS2, as the Government is allowing bubbles of varying sizes depending on individual school layouts etc. This 'two bubble system' has worked well for us so far, as we can maintain separate entrances and toilets, as well as negate the use of the main corridor for separate bubbles and prevents one bubble needing to exit to outdoors via another bubble's classroom.

As expected, we will not be able to hold lunch or collective worship with the whole school together; we will not be going swimming each week nor going on visits. We can, however, now move staff between bubbles, if needed, but I would hope not to, at least to begin with. All adults must endeavour to stay 2m away from each other and the pupils.

I am expecting that hot school meals can be resumed from September. The younger bubble will be able to use the school Hall; the older bubble will be served at their designated seats, or eat outdoors if the meal is practicable. Please let us know your intentions so we are prepared in advance. Free school meals, including those for infants, will resume as normal and vouchers will cease.

Reports

All pupil reports have been sent home. Please bear in mind that judgements had to be made with a large chunk of the usual school year missing.

If you would like to speak to your child's Teacher, or myself, please email the Office and we will arrange a phone consultation.

Catch-up

We will be putting in place a range of catch-up or intervention sessions from the autumn term. We, as yet, don't know what the specific Government proposals/funding are for this, but it could involve additional, small-group or individual support, after-school sessions or online tuition. We will continue with an engaging, broad curriculum for all pupils, but add additional maths and English focus sessions to address any gaps for all pupils.

There is updated curriculum guidance on the website, such as History and Geography progression maps and updated topic overviews. New Computing overviews will follow very soon.

Year 6 Picnic and Leavers' Arrangements

We propose to hold the picnic at 12 noon, either on 15th or 16th July - I will confirm once we have a better idea of the weather (if that is even possible in the UK!) and will message the Y6 families directly.

We will present the Leavers with their Bibles at this time. Sadly, due to gathering guideline, parents will not be able to attend. They are excited that their hoodies have arrived!

Thank you for continuing to follow Government advice, as this is helping to keep us all safe and happy.

Kindest regards,

Diane Lakey