



Dear Parents and Carers, **Arrangements for the New Academic Year 2020/21**

We are now approaching the stage of the holidays when our minds turn to the new term and the return of our children to school. For some of us, our children have not been at school since March, whilst we have supported their learning at home as set by our school. Thank you for all your effort and support in ensuring that your children have kept up with their studies. We understand and recognise that teaching our own children is not the easiest task, and speaking personally my respect for the teaching profession has risen exponentially since March.

We would like to take this opportunity to assure you that all the recommended measures that the Government advises for schools to take will be in place for your children's return. As at 1 June when our school opened to the Reception and Year 1 pupils and then subsequently to Year 6, a full and thorough Risk Assessment will have been completed and returned to the Local Authority. The Risk Assessment is updated in line with the latest Government Guidance. We are sure that you will realise by now that the Guidance is often released very late in the day, and whilst we would all like to have certainty as soon as possible, this has not always been possible. Our preferred course is for you to receive correct advice once only rather than having to retract and contradict ourselves.

We have also consulted with our staff to hear their views as to how they felt and coped with the new provisions that were put in place in order to ensure our school was as safe as possible. The operation of the bubbles worked well and staff enjoyed the opportunity to teach to a defined number of pupils. The staff requested that the newly introduced enhanced cleaning procedures be continued into the new term, and we have assured them that the focus on both personal hygiene and school cleaning will continue. We were delighted that the greater majority of staff felt safe returning to our school with the measures that had been put in place by the School Leadership Team.

It was also great to read the staff responses to the way that the leadership of our school had made them feel during the period since March. The four words/phrases that were most prevalent were: "Safe", "Supported", "Valued", and "Well Informed".

We understand that with headlines changing daily and with the future regarding COVID uncertain, you are bound to be worried. Please be assured that everything that needs to be put in place will be in place. Our Senior Leadership Team have worked tirelessly since the pandemic first surfaced; they have digested and implemented every piece of guidance and every recommendation; they have answered every query from staff and parents alike; they have designed and introduced safe practices throughout our school. Thank you for your support for our Senior Leadership Team, please continue to be guided by their recommendations.

We look forward to welcoming all the children back at the start of term and returning their lives back to some form of normality.

For and on behalf of the Governance Board,

Mrs Helen Keedy
Chair of Governors