



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7WW
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Friday, 19 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are continuing to be safe and are managing the new lockdown restrictions.

Next Monday (22nd) we will welcome back children with three new bubbles: Year 1 class bubble, Y2 Key Worker bubble and a Y6 class bubble. This will mean we will have 12 bubbles, across the whole school from nursery through to Y6, with a total of 142 children on roll. Thank you to everyone who have emailed us over the last few weeks and replied to the survey and booked a place. We have been able to offer all children who wanted a place on 12th June request deadline.

These will be the last bubbles that we open. Unfortunately we cannot open any more for a number of reasons: some staff are unavailable as they are shielding; we need to keep to a maximum of 15 children per bubble; there is a lack of rooms to accommodate more bubbles, and finally, the need to keep some capacity for more Key Workers and Vulnerable children. When allocating any additional places, priority will be given to Key Workers who are not able to work from home. While I acknowledge that many families want to bring their children back, unfortunately we simply do not have enough capacity. We will run a waiting list and contact parents if a place becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel you fulfil the criteria for a Key Worker or Vulnerable place.

For those children who are coming back to school, I have attached various documents: FAQs sheet, a Social Story and a PowerPoint Presentation with some more details of how we have been setting up school, including classroom layouts, zones and the one-way system. I hope you will find these helpful.

For children in Year 5 and Year 6 who are not in school we are drawing up plans to increase the contact time with teachers. This enhanced tuition package will be in the form of small tuition groups reviewing the learning set and offering some guidance and feedback. Please see attached letter with further details.

End of Year Report – we will send out reports via email on Friday 10th July. We are looking into hosting ZOOM calls with parents to discuss the report and will be providing more details later.

Please note there will be no end of year assessment and the report will be based on the assessments from March.

Mixing Classes – as you know, we normally mix classes every year. The intention of this is to broaden friendship groups and develops children's resilience to manage change. Bearing in the mind the impact of Covid19, we have decided to minimise the change for children and will only mix up Reception and Y1 classes. Therefore all other classes will remain the same for next year.

All teachers will remain in the same year groups for next year. As you know, Miss Jakeman is leaving and Mrs Kerslake will replace her in Year 4.

Transition – new teachers will be allocated to classes and this will be shared with parents on Friday 10th July, along with End of Year Reports. The children will have two opportunities to meet their new teacher. The first session will be hosted by their current class teacher to introduce their new teacher; the second session will be hosted by their new teacher. We will send dates and time in the next few weeks.

Reception New starter Induction and Welcome packs

We will host a virtual Reception Welcome Meeting for parents via ZOOM on Thursday 2nd July – 4pm or 7pm. Unfortunately, we cannot run face to face tours or inductions with the children at the moment. We will look at transition times and dates as soon as we have more information about September plans from the Local Authority and Government.

Nursery New starter Induction and Welcome packs

Unfortunately, we cannot run face to face tours or induction with the children at the moment. We will look at transition times and dates as soon as we have more information about September plans from the Local Authority and Government.

We are aware of the huge pressure parents are facing during the lockdown, trying to manage home learning, supporting your children's wellbeing, and managing their anxiety about the virus and either coming back to school, or not being offered a place. Many of us are in similar situation ourselves; trying to balance work commitments and our own children's care arrangements. School is open and staff are working incredibly hard. We are here and are working to support you and your children as best as we can. We all hope that we can get back to normal and open the whole school back as soon as possible.

I understand that the Government are due to publish some information about a national catch up programme today. We are also hoping they will give us some more guidance on opening up to all children in September. Once we have more details we will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dillon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Dillon
Headteacher