



5th June 2020

Message from Mrs Gale

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have had a good half term week. The weather has been glorious, such a lovely surprise during these unusual times.

As I know you are aware Lancashire stepped in last week and advised all schools and Nursery settings to delay the phased reopening. I understand that many of you will be disappointed but as this is an ever-changing arena, I am sure it won't be long before we are welcoming more children back into school. Lancashire have now posted that they will be reviewing the situation on Monday 8th June with a view to reopening on Monday 15th June for EYFS (Nursery & Reception), Year 1 and 6. I will be in touch when I have more information.

I thought I would update you all with some of the measures put in place already to keep pupils, staff and family's safe. Once the children return to school, there will be set entrances and exits for individual 'bubbles' created in school. High traffic areas will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and children will be encouraged to wash their hands lots! Swallow and Robin Class have tables set up with a 2-metre distancing and resources will be assigned to individuals and not shared. Staff have worked hard to clear areas for the intensive cleaning that is taking place daily so school does look very different.

Caring for the 'whole self' is very important and it is with this in mind, as we move towards schools re-opening, that we wanted to outline our guiding principles for a smooth as possible return. We are thinking of adopting the following imagery and acronym:



Safe

We want you and your child to feel safe, calm and re-assured, and to know that it will be okay to come back to school. So, we are already working on creating an environment that is and feels physically and emotionally safe for all of us. We want to build up predictability and consistency around hygiene and other safety rules which school staff will role-model noticeably, and praise your child for following accordingly. We will support any child through any misunderstandings and refer to the benefits of what we are doing.

Welcoming

When the children return, we want them to feel excited and happy coming into school and we want them to know that we are genuinely delighted to have them back and to be able to see them again. We have sincerely missed them. They will need to know that they belong, and feel a part of things and we will do everything we can to enable this.

All Togetherness

So, how can we create these warm, welcoming feelings of care and nurture when we can't touch and need to keep a safe distance? We need to create a truly inclusive environment in which the children feel surrounded by support, and know that they can rely on all the adults around them and that we are all reinforcing the same messages and sense of togetherness.

Nurturing

Recent research conducted at Reading University highlights the importance of allowing the children time and space to play and to re-connect socially with their peers. A key point is to play the long game here, and not rush ahead with trying to make up for lost time or to add intense academic pressure and stress to the children, some of whom are already in a high alert state.

We will focus primarily on settling your children in, on meeting their social and emotional needs first and foremost, and on their readiness to learn skills. The general expert consensus is that we should be laying the foundations for them in terms of nurture first and foremost, not solely teaching them in the plain, traditional sense.

This Covid generation of children are going to be unique, and we want to enable them to flourish which will not be an overnight job. We have the potential to do a lot of good here, and to repair the significant rupture that this virus has caused and to prepare our children to be strong adults in the future as well as happy and resilient children in their present.

Anticipating their concerns

It's important to recognise that each child is unique, and that they may have had very different experiences of Home Learning and staying at home, even within the same family. Many children will naturally have mixed feelings and attitudes about coming back to school.

A tip is to be alert and attuned to how your child is feeling as they might have a particular worry about returning to school that can be addressed. With younger children (3-7), playing together may be your best way of identifying what their concerns are. They often play and draw what they are thinking about, sometimes repeatedly. With older children talking can be easier through a shared activity like walking the dog or baking a cake.

Thank you for everything that you are doing to support your child at home. It is appreciated.

Over the last 10 weeks, life has changed quite a lot for all of us, the relaxing of some of the lockdown restrictions this last couple of weeks is a welcome relief for many. I am sure that you will have lots of plans to see family and friends. During the time away from school, there has been lots of news in the school family. Max, Lucas, Toby and Amelia are getting a baby brother. Maisie is moving house, although not school and her little brother Joseph has broken his leg, but is doing well. Mrs Beswetherick has gained Level 3 Forest School status and the following children have celebrated a birthday... Toby, Zoe, Amelia and Luke. The Reception Year for September has been confirmed; when Ted, George, Alison and James will join Robin Class.

I know that this school year will end very differently than previous years and that many of the traditions will not take place but there are plans to ensure that this is a special time especially for year 6 and those children in Nursery moving into Reception.

Thank you for everything that you are doing to support your child at home. It is appreciated. Take care.

Mrs Katrina Gale

Dates for the diary

Monday 8th June - LCC review of school opening

Monday 15th June - 1st proposed date for school reopening to Nursery, Reception,
Year 1 & 6 TBC

Wednesday 15th July - Year 6 Leavers worship (Virtually)

Thursday 16th July - TERM ENDS

