

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of this term has certainly kept us on our toes as we've watched and listened and read so much information as schools have been asked to open for Early Years, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. There have been tricky decisions for these families to make based on 'what if'; perhaps relief or disappointment for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5; as well as lots of planning in school just in case the R-rate continues to be consistently reduced and reducing.

We are proud to be able to say that we **are** fully planned, risk assessed and can be ready in response to the Prime Minister when he confirms his final decision on the 28th May. The opening has always been dependent on the government stating that it is safe to do so based on 'the science'.

However we have been looking carefully at the local data and balancing this with our confidence in the recommendation to open based on the endlessly changing and additional guidance documents provided to schools. It is with this in mind that we have written to our families from EY, R, Y1, Y6 who have selected to return and explained that I and the governors believe that postponing the wider opening is the safest option. This is supported by the Independent Sage group and may be just for a week, but will be based on the confidence we have in the information we receive.

This has been an agonising decision, especially as we are ready to welcome the children back. I want to thank everyone I have spoken to or received emails from for their kindness and considered thought. Please trust that our decision to delay opening is done so with the best intentions and with everyone's health and safety as a priority. At this stage, we do not know if our decision will mirror that of the government on the 28th May and fully appreciate that this is difficult for everyone to process and plan around.

Therefore, we will continue in the same format after half term and all children currently attending school will continue to do so as part of our covid-response support. I want to thank everyone for their understanding through what has been, and will continue to be, a challenging time.

On a more positive note, I hope that we can all enjoy the half term and perhaps break from some of the daily routines once or twice if possible. I hope to spend a couple of days at home and suspect a 'pyjama day' will be a top priority for our relaxation and together time. We all need some moments to check-in with each other to make sure we stay well, stay listened to and stay connected as these times are stressful for us all, little or grown up.

We have spent the past few days asking you for photos to help tell our school story. I can't wait to see it as I've asked Mr Watson to put it together so it will be a surprise to me too! It will show how each of us has been a hero in building each day on the last and showing support, resilience, kindness, calmness and patience (lots and lots and lots of patience maybe). We are all heroes together 🙌🙌🙌

Let us keep moving forward, one day at a time, searching for the positive to help brighten our hearts, minds and the day ahead as we wait for 'the storm to pass'.

We will be back at school in one form or another and online on Monday 1st June - see you then ☺ (admin checks will intermittently take place on emails and the dojo).

Take care, stay safe,
Hayley Adams

