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CHADDESLEY CORBETT ENDOWED PRIMARY & PRE-SCHOOL

15th May 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Yesterday afternoon I met with two groups of parents via Zoom for a parents' forum. Thank you very much to those parents and carers that attended. We discussed how it had been for them over the past few weeks and any concerns that parents may feel about a return to school. I felt they were very successful meetings with a good range of year groups and experience, so I feel assured that those who attended are a representative sample.

Most parents said that their children were very keen to come back to school and the thing that they had missed the most was mixing with their friends. This was really the main thrust of our discussions. I was asked about social distancing and reiterated the government view that in primary school that really is not possible because small children will naturally migrate together. Parents too felt that it would be very difficult to apply and that their children may find it frightening or unnatural if we were to try to do so. I was able to reassure parents that although we couldn't apply strict social distancing, children will stay in a small bubble group of no more than 15 children and will not mix with any other group, or use equipment that another group had used until it had been thoroughly cleaned. They will eat separately and play separately. In this way we can minimise mixing.

Parents were concerned about the makeup of these smaller groups and I was able to reassure them that the class teacher will be deciding, using their good knowledge of the children, who they work best with and who they are friends with. It won't be an arbitrary factor such as alphabetical order. We know that children have really missed seeing their classmates and friends and will organise groups so that relationships can be rebuilt as a priority. Parents asked if they would be able to know the groups beforehand in order to prepare their children. I will investigate this possibility as I am unsure about it with regards to GDPR.

We discussed the return of all year groups and touched upon the logistics of that. If we must continue in smaller groups, then we would need to do a lot of thinking about space and may if necessary, build up year groups by school priority. We discussed half weeks and parents raised issues such as siblings on the same days and whole days being easier to manage than half days. I have taken note of all these concerns but honestly can't plan for them yet as we are so far away from that in terms of preparation. A lot will depend of course on how it goes with the first intake and further guidance from unions and government.

We also discussed wraparound care which will be available for those children in school but exactly how it can be managed we will have to work out, as it may mean children breaking out of their bubble group. We will work very hard to ensure it is as safe as possible and follows guidelines.

In summary, children are keen to return to school and we are keen for school to return to normal. Trust us to take as much care as possible to make it as safe as we can and minimise risk. We will plan well and have clear contingencies in place. We can't however totally eliminate risk and it is for us to share clearly with you how we will manage things: and for you as families to decide if you are happy with that for you and your children.

I hope this has been useful, I know it has for the school and once again I'd like to thank the families that took part in the discussion.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E James".

Emma James
Headteacher