



MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No.31 15th May 2020

A Message from Mrs Hewitt

I would like to thank parents for their patience and understanding over recent weeks and, particularly, for keeping your children at home whenever possible to help reduce the spread of this awful virus. I would also like to thank those parents who are critical key workers who have been forced to use the childcare provision at school so that they could continue with vital work but have also used it only when they have had to.

Following further discussions with staff and governors I wanted to update you on the latest at Meadows regarding the plans in place for the return of youngsters to our school.

As you will be aware, we are being asked to start allowing **Nursery, Reception and Year One** children back into school in June. A lot of parents have been emailing me to ask what 'schooling' will look like before they make the decision of whether to send their child back to school or not. I fully understand your concerns; I am a parent too and know how important it is to protect our children in whatever way we can. The government have asked schools to review their Risk Assessments in order to decide how many children we can accommodate in classrooms with children being kept 2m apart; at Meadows, this is likely to be up to a maximum of 9 per class.

We are going to start the process by bringing the children in on a part time timetable initially; we are doing this so that we will have less pupils onsite, and in this way, we can monitor our safety measures. By evaluating how this works over a couple of weeks, we can then consider a full-time timetable, and the possibility of allowing more year groups in if and when the government asks us to do so. I will only do this if and when I feel it is safe to do so for both the staff, parents and the children at Meadows.

The school will remain open for children of key workers working on the COVID19 response; school must be used as **a last resort** because we are now trying to cater for more children on site, whilst keeping them socially distanced and safe. We need to also protect the health of staff, as if they become ill the school will not be able to function.

Home schooling: Whilst the teachers are being asked to come into school to teach the small groups of children in years N, R and 1, they will also continue to be planning and responding to the home learning. It will continue to be weekly themes. It is important to note that with the children in school, we will mirror the timetable and activities that are offered on the home learning page to ensure the curriculum we offer is the same irrespective of where they are educated. This is why the government have confirmed that **no parent will be fined** for not sending their children to school due to a desire to keep them safe.

As you all know, we pride ourselves on being a caring and nurturing school and this is going to be difficult to implement with the safety guidance given. In my many years as a headteacher, I did not think I would need to prepare for a school in these circumstances. School will look very different to our usual Meadows; this makes all the staff feel very sad, but it has to be done this way to keep us all safe! We obviously want the best for our children but we know that the changes we are having to implement in school will be very hard for the children of such young ages to understand. As always, we will do our best to minimise risk, the school will not be as safe as staying at home. To minimise the risk we have decided to place children in specific groups that they remain with; they will not be allowed to mix with other groups in order to avoid possible transmission of the virus. We also need to do our utmost to ensure that these groups do not come into contact with other groups. This will be achieved through staggered drop-off and collection times, staggered lunch (in classrooms) and break times etc. Prior to opening the rest of the school, we will provide you with more information. We have been preparing the site with safety measures too; cordoning off areas, changing classrooms, building screens for the office. Can I please ask you to avoid coming into the building if at all possible; please email us if you need anything office@meadows.worcs.sch.uk?

Half Term Break

All of the staff in School have a great deal to prepare for if we are to open to a wider group of children after half term. They, as well as the children, also need to have a short break from the wide and varied responsibilities they have had to take on over the last 9 weeks. Thus, the School will be closed to all children for the half term break and no work will be sent home for this period.

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. We miss you all and look forward to welcoming you back, hopefully in the near future.