



Friday 12 June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

SUMMER TERM UPDATE

I am writing to let you know how the first couple of weeks of the new arrangements are going and plans for the remainder of the summer term.

Firstly, I want to say thank you to all the children, parents and staff for working together so positively within the arrangements that were put in place from Monday 1st June, when we started the phased return of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Everything has gone incredibly smoothly and it has been lovely to see the children starting to come back to school happily and safely. This is partly down to how well organised things have been but it is also down to the way the whole school community just pulls together and 'cracks on' with things at Fairlands, always putting the wellbeing of our children at the centre of everything we do. We should all be feeling extremely proud of how we are managing this whole situation – the smiles on the faces of the children at home and at school tell us we are all doing a great job!

We currently have just under half of the children back in each 'bubble'. You know we completely respect the personal choice of parents and carers at this point but it is only right for me to say that we would love to see more children in the eligible year groups safely back in school. If you would like to talk through any anxieties or concerns you have about sending your child back, please give the school office a ring or email admin@fairlands.herts.sch.uk and one of the deputy heads will get in touch to talk it through.

You will have heard in the press this week that the government have decided that the current arrangements are going to continue for the rest of the summer term and there are no plans for children in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 to return before the summer holiday. I know this is very challenging and that this means that these children will have been away from school from March until September at the earliest. I hope you are assured from the way we have responded to this whole crisis that, as a leadership team, we are completely committed to getting all children back into school as soon as possible. **Please tell your child that we are missing them and we are looking forward to seeing them as soon as we possibly can.** If you are facing any particular issues that you think we can help with, please ring the school office or email admin@fairlands.herts.sch.uk and one of the deputy heads will get in touch to discuss what support we can offer.

We will, of course, continue to provide home learning activities until the end of the summer term. Well done to all the children who have been working hard and also to their parents & carers who have been 'making it happen'!

Finally, a word about September. Like you, we do not have full certainty about what the autumn term is going to look like but I think it is important for you to know that we are currently planning for a full return of all year groups from September. This is our starting point because, like I have said, we believe that all of our children desperately need to get back into normal routines and experiencing the fullest learning opportunities that being in school can offer. We cannot promise or guarantee at this point, but please be assured that we will do everything we can, within the limitations of government directives and local risk assessments, to have every child back at school in September.

In order to implement these plans, I would like to inform you that **the last day we will have children on site for the summer term will now be Friday 17th July 2020**. There is a lot of work to be done to set up for the new academic year but until all the classrooms are cleaned, staff will not be able to access different rooms to undertake this work. Making Friday the last day will enable us to conduct a deep clean of all the current 'bubbles' and give staff time before the end of term to move all the classrooms back and set up for a full return of all year groups in September.

If you are needing childcare over the summer holiday, please be advised that we are currently speaking to external childcare providers to find out what they can offer and will communicate this to you in due course.

Thank you again for your endless support.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Staples', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert Staples
Headteacher