

Principal
Miss. D. Givens
B.A.(Hons) Q.T.S



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Dear Parents and Carers,

12th June 2020

After the first week, of all 4 eligible year groups back at Smith's Wood Primary, we would like to say what a pleasure it has been to see the pupils, who have chosen to return in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, back in school. It has been a fantastic week, where staff have welcomed back pupils in their 'Bubble groups' and have worked hard with the pupils to get them settled back in to the routines of the school.

I would also like to thank parents, of pupils who have chosen to return, for their support in the new drop off and pick up procedures that the school have implemented to ensure that pupils are able to access and exit the school safely. The respect which has been shown, by parents, to these new procedures, is clear to see and we thank you for supporting the school with these new measures.

Many of you will have seen the Government announcement on Tuesday, where they said that they were 'pulling back' from insisting that all year groups returned to primary school before the summer break, but were 'working on plans' to allow schools, who have the capacity to bring more pupils back, the opportunity to do so. I wanted to let parents know that, at Smith's Wood Primary Academy, we do feel that we would be able to welcome more pupils back before the summer holidays, if the green light and guidance is given to allow us to do so. We are currently working on some provisional plans, which we hope to implement if we are able to; these plans will hopefully allow pupils in the remaining year groups of Year 2, 3, 4 & 5, the opportunity to return for a few weeks before the summer holidays if they wished to. Whilst I cannot guarantee this at this time, as soon as we have any further guidance, I will update parents on start dates. I am hoping that the guidance from the Government and the DFE arrives early next week.

In preparation for a possible wider reopening, next week, staff will be calling parents of pupils in the remaining year groups of Year 2, 3, 4 and 5, to ask whether they would wish for their child to return for the last few weeks, if we are able to offer that provision. As with the first four year groups, who started back with us on the 1st June, the decision on whether you wish for your child to return is entirely yours as the parent. There will be no fines issued for parents who choose not to send their child back before the summer holidays.

We do ask that you give a definite 'yes' or 'no' when staff call next week, as we need to ensure that we can plan additional bubbles and staffing according to the numbers. If staff call and the phone is not answered, they will leave a message asking for the parent to call back. We ask that, if you wish for your child to be on the list to return, if we are able to open more widely, that you call back by Friday 19th June, so that we can finalise numbers the following week. For parents who have pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and wish for them to return before the summer (if they have not done so already) then we ask that you let us know this by next Friday (19th June) After this date, we will not be able to accept any more pupils, as the bubbles and staffing will need to be finalised for the remaining few weeks.

As explained above, I am unable to give a definitive decision as to whether the Government will allow us to open for the remaining year groups as yet, but we are hopeful that the green light will be given for schools, who are able to accommodate more pupils, to be able to welcome more children back before the summer. If that green light is given, then Smith's Wood Primary will begin to put their plans into action to welcome more pupils back.

In the meantime, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well with your families.

Miss D Givens

Principal

CHALLENGE, SUPPORT, PROGRESS

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