

12th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Academy Update

I hope this letter finds you all well, even if the weather is certainly not as nice as the last time I wrote to you all to update you on the current changes. I do not think I have ever written as many letters in a year as I've written over the last 12 weeks, but people everywhere have adapted to many changes throughout this pandemic!

Pupils able to attend the academy

From next week we will be welcoming Year 6 back into the academy as per the government plans to increase numbers of children of key workers, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children into schools. We are also welcoming back additional children in Reception and Year 1, who have also made the decision to come back into the academy at this time. Due to the high take-up of places we will be at a maximum capacity after next week, and therefore not able to open to other year groups fully until after the summer break. We know this will be upsetting to many children in these year groups. We're really sad to not be able to have them in too and we are planning on some transition opportunities to help (see section below). You can also help by ensuring they participate fully in home learning for now to make sure gaps aren't created in this time.

Home Learning

It's really important to make sure you are keeping up with the home learning if you're at home. We have carried on with the lessons you would have doing in the academy in terms of the maths and English and other subject areas, so by doing these at home, you are making sure the children are ready to start a new year group in September. Lots of children are being given high ratings by their teachers for full participation and doing really well but there are a few who we know aren't doing enough to keep up. Please let us know how we can help by doing things like arranging calls from class teachers or senior leaders or providing devices if you think this could make a difference. We want to help however we can.

Children starting Reception and Nursery in September 2020

As our current Nursery space has been used to cater for our Key Worker and other eligible children, we have been unable to re-open Pre-school and Happy Hearts during the reduced provision period. We have saved some spaces and time in the last week of term for children starting Pre-School and Reception in September 2020 to come in and see their new classrooms, stay for a timeslot if they want to, and meet their new teacher. Keep an eye out for letters with more detail over the next two weeks. We are also creating some videos for the website so you can see more of the academy on a 'virtual tour', meet the wider staff and find out more with your children to help them transition into their next stage.

Reception to Year 5 Summer Transition Plans

As the academy building now has as many people as we can safely have in it attending, we are going to be hosting some outdoor transition afternoons on the field where all children will be invited in with one adult to meet their teacher for next year. Children who are in the academy that week will also attend these events. There will be an opportunity to learn about the new teachers, complete some fun activities and ask any questions you might like to know. We will be writing to you about this next week with detail about which teacher your child's class is moving up to and times and dates for the 'meet the teacher event'. We will also be making some videos and resources for you on the website for a 'virtual tour' of your new classroom and areas of the academy that you might not be as used to

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yet to help get ready for September. Finally, your new teachers will be writing to you in July with extra information and a postcard for you to return to be put up on display in your new classroom ready for you!

Y6 Leavers Plans

We are excited to have so many year 6 pupils joining us next week, or the week after, as they return to the academy. We also aware that we are going to be unable to do some of the things that we would normally be able to do to say goodbye at the end of Year 6. I know many of you bought the leaver's hoodies from the letters sent out in May and it has been lovely so see pictures on Twitter of the Y6s in them - they look so much bigger already!

We are currently planning the following to make sure they still have a memorable end to their Primary years:

- Teachers have planned some great activities and learning to support them in leaving Primary and getting ready for Secondary schools to make sure they feel prepared and can ask questions and relieve any worries.
- Filming of a Leaver's DVD using the songs they've learnt and other memories and reflections, including messages from staff, which they will receive a copy of to be able to celebrate those memories.
- We are going to host a 'premier' of the DVD on the school field in whole classes in the last week of term.
- This will be part of a celebration event with awards and tasty treats too as part of a socially distanced outside event in the last week (dates to come next week).

Some of the secondary schools have been in contact with us to ask us to inform you that they are sending out information to the email addresses/postal addresses that you supplied them with during your applications. Please keep an eye out for these as they will contain important information for you about September.

End of Year Reports

We have been producing end of year reports based on the learning children had completed up until the point that schools closed and any additional information we have gained from the home learning that has been sent in. These will be posted out to you at the end of June as we felt it was still important to recognise all the brilliant work and progress achieved by our pupils in 2019-20 and to have a complete set of school reports for the Primary years for those of you who collect them!

The future!

In terms of September, we have not had any more information that you have at this stage and are looking to the Government to make some decisions quickly to allow us to plan properly for a wider return to school for all pupils. We need to make sure all year groups have access to time in the academy even if we can't return as normal. As soon as we have any information at all, we will be in touch to let you know our plans.

In the meantime, we thought it might be helpful for you to be able to ask any questions and see what other parents are also thinking, as well as giving any feedback on things that are working well. If you'd like to do this then please click on the [link here](#). We will then collate all the questions, write answers and share this with you as a 'frequently asked questions' document to try and answer any questions you might have if we can!

Stay safe and look after yourselves,

E J Hobson

Principal

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