

Headteacher: Andrew Denham

office.3127@standlake.oxon.sch.uk

Monday 18th May

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you had a lovely weekend and enjoyed the good weather.

Most of you will be aware of the current debate about children returning to school after half term.

The government have published guidelines for schools to follow, but it has been left to the discretion of individual settings as to how these guidelines are put in place.

The Standlake teachers, Karen Armeanu (Chair of Governors) and I are in agreement that we should do what is practically possible to enable children to come back into school, as safely as possible. We agree that the known emotional, social, well-being and academic long-term needs must be balanced against the potential health risks that come with opening the school.

Our planning is focused around three key areas:

1. Organising the school so that social distancing is in place as much as possible.
2. Providing thorough hygiene and cleaning provision.
3. Planning a curriculum that meets the needs and demands of a 'virtual' and a 'real' school.

This planning needs to consider numerous factors, including staff and families' health, employment issues, school practicalities and resourcing as well as how to approach the teaching and learning, all of which are being addressed through an extensive risk assessment.

In the next couple of days, I will be outlining the general practical arrangements we will be putting in place. To aid the refinement of our planning, families with children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker children will be asked if they intend to send their children into school after half term. I ask that families wait until they have read our arrangements before informing the school.

For now, The Home Learning arrangements for last week and previous weeks will remain in place. This will continue for children in Year's 2-5 after half term.

I acknowledge and understand that, for some, there may be a degree of anxiety and frustration at not yet having your questions answered fully. But rest assured that I am in full consultation and agreement with Karen, David Brown (Eynsham Partnership Academy CEO) and teaching staff about the content and timeframe that information is shared.

These are challenging times in which no single person or groups of people can be expected to have definitive solutions to, or answers to queries which satisfy everyone. We ask that you continue to remain patient and put your trust in the levels of support, collaboration, checks and accountability that are in place at school and within the EPA.

With continued understanding and collaboration from yourselves as parents as well as the wider school community I am confident that we will be able to implement a plan which is sensible and in line with government guidance, as much as possible. It will then be for you, as parents, to make a decision as to what you do.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during these unprecedented times.

Kind regards,

Andrew Denham

PS. I hope you enjoy trying to guess which baby is which member of staff!