
SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Part of the Bourne Partnership

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Dear Parents,

Another week has flown by, and we have all been busy at Shipbourne School. Having welcomed the children of keyworkers back, we are now in a position to invite the remaining children in year 5 back from Monday 22nd June. Beyond the statutory key worker, year R, 1 and 6 groups, we feel that our next priority needs to be providing face to face teaching to year 5. As this year group look ahead to secondary school applications in October, we need to close gaps and prepare them ahead of their final year in primary school. The year 5 children will work with year 6 and Miss Pitcher in Fairlawne Class.

Since we were given the flexibility to open more widely this week, we have worked through many scenarios in the hope of inviting more children back, but given current health and safety restrictions plus staffing and physical capacity, we are reluctantly unable to do so this term. We are aware that some local schools are inviting more year groups back on a part time rota system. Government guidelines, however, do not encourage this, and we strongly feel that these guidelines need to be followed in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. It is also strategically very difficult given we have mixed age classes taught by the same staff who would therefore be moving from one group to another were we to introduce a rota system. We know how difficult the children left at home have found the past few weeks, knowing that their friends are back in school, and we are hopeful that by September we will find a way to ensure that they can also come back. We are all living through such uncertain times, and although we can't see you face to face, please do ask if you need support or guidance.

As we look ahead to next year, we are delighted to have a full cohort starting with us in Reception in September. Year 5 children will be assigned a 'buddy' and will spend time in school preparing electronic Buddy Books. We will also be welcoming parents through virtual meetings and making contact with nursery schools. As an additional measure, we also wondered if any existing parents would like to volunteer to be virtual buddies to the 'new' parents, making phone contact and helping them to settle into our community. Please email me if you would be interested in providing this support.

Over the next couple of weeks, plans will evolve for a virtual farewell assembly for year 6. If you and your children would like to send a short video message to the year 6s, I will do my very best to collate these into a presentation to share with them. Year R pupils will also video a personalised farewell to their buddies, but we will do this in school.

Finally, the weather is set to get hot over the coming weeks. Please ensure that sun lotion is applied in the morning and that children have a sun hat and water bottle. Raincoats and jumpers should also be provided just in case the weather suddenly takes a turn for the worse. With the doors open in school, it can get chilly, so an extra layer is helpful.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and encouragement,

Terri Daters
Head of School