

DRIFFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

Wider opening of the school

As you will no doubt have heard, the government made an announcement yesterday to Headteachers, parents and the wider public about its changed expectations around schools reopening to more pupils, so I wanted to contact you as soon as possible to let you know about the situation for your children.

At DJS we would love nothing more than to see all pupils back at school for a short time before the end of the term but, with a heavy heart, **I need to inform you that we do not have the capacity to facilitate opening to pupils from years 3 to 5.**

I know that many parents had already made the decision to keep their children at home for the rest of the term anyway but I am equally aware that some parents desperately want their children back at school. I fully sympathise with those parents and, of course, the children themselves.

At present we have eight year 6 groups attending school from Monday to Thursday and from next Monday we will have five groups of keyworker/other eligible pupils attending Monday to Friday. For these groups we are using almost all classrooms as well as almost all of our available staff. Some staff are unable to be in school at present so are working from home. We presently have capacity for more Year 6 pupils to join the established groups, but even if we had the space to accommodate more year groups, we wouldn't have the staff to enable this to happen in line with DfE safety guidance.

We really are working at full capacity and I hope that you understand the challenging position we are in. Our priority now is to start planning for September, bearing in mind children's mental health and well-being, as well as preparing to support their learning and any gaps that need filling.

For the remainder of the term we will continue to provide work packs for children to complete at home, and to signpost parents to online learning and any other suggested activities. Phone calls home will be prioritised to those children who are not attending school but, of course, we ask that anyone with a concern should contact school and not wait for the next call.

Children in years 3 to 5 will remain with their current class as they move up to the next year group in September. At the start of July, parents will receive information about who their child's next teacher/teaching assistant will be and in which classroom they will be taught. Please keep checking the school APP for updates as this is our main way of contacting home. Whilst we are now working towards welcoming all children back in September, this is of course dependent on Government confirmation.

Please be assured that we are doing our best to support those children currently in school as well as those who are not. We miss the children very much and desperately look forward to seeing everyone together again, hopefully very soon!

In the meantime if you have any queries, please contact school by ringing 01377 253371 or emailing closure@djs.eriding.net – we will do our best to help you.

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe.

Best wishes,

Linda Laird - Headteacher