

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2020
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Message from Mr. Pavey

We have had a busy week putting the finishing touches to our preparations to welcome some of our Year 6 children back to school on Monday. We are delighted that there are 28 children due to return. If your child is in Year 6 and you have made the decision to keep them away from school for the time being, I completely respect this decision, understanding how hard that will have been. If you want your Year 6 child to return the following week (22nd June) as long as you let us know by midday on 17th June, then we can make arrangements for this to happen. If your child is returning but they are not able to for one reason or another, please let us know by 9:10am on the day we are expecting them. It is also possible that once your child has been back to school, you might change your mind, this is absolutely fine but please let us know so we know who to expect in school.

The preparations that we have made for the children coming back have made the school look very different. Stripping back many of the items that make the school a warm and cosy environment has been a horrible but necessary task. One day, we will be back to normal and we will appreciate even more how wonderful our school is!

We have also been putting early plans into place of the Year 1 children coming back from 22nd June. We now have all the names of children whose parents/carers want them to return and on Wednesday next week, your child's class teacher will be in touch to let you know the details of the arrangements.

Next week too, we will send a questionnaire out to parents/carers of our Reception children to find out who will be returning from the 29th June.

It has been a strange week for Government announcements. On Tuesday, it was announced that they had dropped plans for all Primary pupils to return to school but did not clarify that this did not include the Year 6, Year 1 and Reception year groups; on Wednesday it was announced that Summer schools would take place; on Thursday, the Prime Minister said that there would not be any schools open over the Summer holidays and that Childcare for Key Workers would not continue past the end of the Summer term. I share everyone's frustration over this lack of clarity and can only ask that parents/carers understand that this causes inconvenience to schools just as it does to home lives.

I do want to pick up on a couple of things from these announcements. Whilst the Government have dropped plans for all pupils to return, I have not given up all hope of seeing other year groups in and whilst that might be controversial, I do think there is benefit for children to spend even a couple of days in school before September. I would have to say that however keen I am on this, it is still unlikely. The plan that Key Worker Childcare might not continue will release the pressures on staffing levels and could mean that we might be able to open our usual Summer Holiday Childcare, which we would need to charge for but it will enable it to be between 7:30am and 6pm. I will keep you all up to date on any further developments as they happen. Remember I don't find out Government plans before you do!

We sent out New Starter packs to the parents/carers of our children due to start Reception in September. I am sure everyone can sympathise with how hard this must be for these parents/carers and children. Starting school is such a milestone in the lives of our children. The mix of excitement and nerves is something we have all experienced. Add in to this the complete uncertainty of what school will be like in September and whether or not all children will be returning must make this so hard for them.

We are processing the refunds for Carlton Lodge and Moorhouse trips next week and will have the money back to parents/carers as soon as possible. Please bear with us, we are trying harder than any other travel company!

I would like to thank all parents/carers and the children for their efforts in getting to grips with the online learning. I have been looking at the work the children have been doing again this week and I am so impressed. Please keep going with it and let your child's class teacher know if you are having difficulties.

There have been some wonderful videos uploaded on to the school's Facebook page showing what the children have been getting up to during the Lockdown. Thanks to everyone for sending pictures in and to Mrs Costello for putting them together and Mrs Eckert for uploading them.

Remember if you need anything, please email: vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net