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Headteacher – Mr Richard Kitching

Friday, 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: DfE Guidance on the September 2020 Opening of Schools

Yesterday the Department for Education released the long awaited guidance document for schools in relation to the beginning of the academic year in September 2020.

This is a long and substantial document containing a wide range of information that requires careful consideration. In the coming days I will be unpicking the information, consulting and planning with staff and governors, revising our risk assessment and also taking into account any additional advice and guidance that may be issued by Derbyshire County Council in due course. Following this, I will provide further details and information for parents and carers as soon as I can. However, at this moment, I can outline some of the key points from the document to give parents a clearer idea of what to expect in September.

They are:

- All children are expected to attend school from September 2020. Normal attendance and absence procedures will resume in line with statutory guidance, including the potential issuing of fines for pupil non-attendance.

- The pupils will be kept in their class 'bubble' throughout the school day. The 'bubble' will be all the other children in their class. The children will not be expected to be kept apart from other children within their bubble. However, they will not be able to mix with other classes in the school.

- There will be staggered drop off and collection times at the start and end of the school day (further details to follow).

- Parents and carers are unable to enter school unless arranged through prior appointment

- The full curriculum will be taught but with an emphasis on core skills and addressing any gaps in learning and understanding from the period of school closure

- Break times and lunch times will also be staggered.

- An NHS 'test and trace' system will be implemented

- A continued emphasis on ensuring regular handwashing and high standards of cleanliness

- Pupils and staff with symptoms of Covid-19 are not to attend school and should get tested straight away.

- There will be no 'big group' events such as school assemblies

- Classrooms will be arranged with forward facing desks

The government have also just released information for parents and carers about the September 2020. The link to this information is below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term

With the above in mind, I can confirm at this point that the class organisation for the next academic year will be as follows:

Derwent Class comprising of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. As before, Miss Funnell will be the class teacher for the majority of the week. Currently, we are expecting 22 children in this class next year. Mrs Gough will be the Teaching Assistant primarily supporting this class.

Trent Class comprising of Years 3 and Year 4. This will remain with Mrs Jones and Mrs Hammond teaching the class on a job share basis. Currently, we are expecting 21 children in this class next year. Mrs Carr will be the Teaching Assistant primarily supporting this class next year.

Dove Class comprising of Year 5 and 6 pupils. Mr Banister will continue teaching this age group. We are expecting 20 children in this class next year. Mrs Wallace and Mrs McDonnell will be the Teaching Assistants primarily supporting pupils in this class.

The classes will be based in the same classrooms as this year.

As soon as I am able to give you further information I will do so. We are all really looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to school in September
Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Kitching
Headteacher