

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are keeping well during these soggy days!

We opened the school to a small number of Nursery and Year 6 pupils this week, following our 2 metre distancing agreed school plan. I'm pleased to say all is going well and everyone is coping with the necessary changes. Year 1 return on Monday 22nd June and Reception join us on the 29th June.

If the government reduces the 2 metre social distancing rules then we will be in touch to offer more places to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and will be in touch with those parents to discuss their child's return.

A number of families have contacted us this week enquiring about a possible keyworker place for their child. In order to establish if we can assist we do need to ask the occupations of parents/carers so please provide this information to staff if you are calling us. The Government has published a list of those occupations classed as key workers and this is available to view on gov.uk – links have been sent previously.

Some additional information

The government announced this week that free school meals for those families eligible would continue over the summer holidays. For Brockley this means that instead of the current provision and scheme of weekly hampers and daily lunches we will move to vouchers. More information will be sent to those families in the coming weeks in preparation for the change that will come into effect from Monday 20th July.

You will have heard on the news, the same time we did, that schools are not to reopen to all year groups for a month before the end of term, as had been expected. Therefore, we will continue to follow guidance provided by the DfE and PHE, and the guidance also provided to schools by Derbyshire County Council.

We have not been given any guidance yet about September 2020 so we still don't know what the new academic year will look like for our pupils and staff, although we are planning for a return and reviewing how teaching and learning might look. I know you will be thinking about this too and wondering how best you can support your child during this time and I know you want to prepare them for what's ahead. When the overall decision becomes clear I will of course share this with you and offer advice and support.

This pandemic has had a huge effect on us all. Living intensely with your family may not be easy and many of you may have struggled with encouraging your child to continue their learning. We know it can be challenging to engage our learners and we appreciate it may also be difficult when they do return to a normal school routine, and they will need help to make a successful post corona transition back to school.

We know you and your children have experienced losses. Loss of routine, loss of structure, loss of friendship, loss of opportunity and loss of freedom. Other losses adults are experiencing that children may be aware of is loss of financial stability. From a notion of loss, sleep can also be affected and your child might not be sleeping like they used to. Sleep is vital to sound, healthy brain development. Also the notion of losses may cause trauma, anxiety, bereavement and attachment issues. It would not be unusual for your child, despite feeling safe at home, to

experience a sense of abandonment in these times because this time now is not their usual structure. These factors are blocks to learning as they block memory. Therefore, we are adopting and delivering a Recovery Curriculum at the moment and we will continue this moving forward. A recovery curriculum is a construct based on children's lived experience during the Covid lock down time.

The lived experience of our pupils is where we will start. We want our children to enjoy being with each other again. So when they are back in school we will talk about Thursday clapping for the NHS and carers and the Nightingale hospital. We will discuss how they felt when they saw and heard the daily news alerts so we know how to support them to re-build their confidence and skills. Our starting point is not how far behind they are because we know an anxious child is not a learning child. Actually, our standpoint is that the curriculum froze at a point in time. The children haven't lost learning they have paused. Equally, we know many children have learnt a great many other skills during this time, some have even started up their own successful businesses!

We want to help children become advocates in infection prevention at home and in the community by talking to others about how to prevent the spread of viruses, educating in an age appropriate way. We are very mindful about the anxiety children may experience. We will encourage them to talk. It is normal that they may have different reactions and some may need to talk to adults in school and at home about how they are feeling. So through our curriculum of care and healing we will create opportunities for our pupils to work together, to socialise (safely) with one another and build their resilience so they are emotionally & mentally healthy.

There's a saying "If kindness is what you show, its kindness that you'll receive". The Brockley Team will be what the children need us to be.

What to do if a pupil or staff member becomes ill while they are not in school

- Any pupil or member of staff who has either a new continuous cough or a temperature must not come to school and must follow self-isolation guidelines for 7 days. The rest of their household must also self isolate for 14 days.
- Please ask your child how they are feeling before they come to school. Existing health conditions if anyone in your household has received a letter to say that they need to be shielded and stay at home, they must follow the information they have been given by their GP.

Supporting each other

Your support in helping us achieve these standards in school is vital. Please model the hygiene behaviours that apply when you are at home and encourage your children to follow them. Also please ensure that:

- You/ your household self-isolate if anyone develops symptoms for our community and school's safety
- You follow guidance relating to travel and meeting with others when you are outside the school - this is very important to minimise the risk of infection

We will do our best to maintain the phone calls to families who have requested this and staff will also continue setting and monitoring home learning for those year groups not in school. For all other correspondence or queries relating to school or for specific information relating to your

child or family, please contact the school via email on: headteacher@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk
Please do not come to the school office; you must either email or telephone the school.

Please continue to stay in touch with all that you are doing at home and look out for the additional communications and changes to our home learning that are happening over the final half term.

Take care and stay safe.

Caroline Rodgers