



Thursday 27th August, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones have managed to stay safe during the ongoing pandemic, I am aware of the many issues and difficulties that families have had to face. In June we were able to welcome back more children into school and I hope that they were able to share the positivity of the experience with those who were unfortunately not included at that time.

School is the best place for children to learn, it gives them a routine and helps them develop their social skills. They also get to see their friends and teachers. It is important that all children return to school in the autumn. Although we are not out of this health crisis, as a school we have put measures in place to mitigate risks against catching and spreading Covid-19.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that the risk of catching coronavirus (COVID-19) is low if schools apply a system of stringent controls to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. These measures also reflect that young children find it hard to socially distance. To reduce risk, all primary schools must create 'bubbles' of children, with no mixing between bubbles. To help reassure parents, please find attached our detailed plans of how our school will operate in the coming weeks outlining the safety measures.

For several weeks, all JMAT schools have closed after children have had their Friday lunchtime other than for the FS1 afternoon session. This is continuing at the moment as it is an important measure to support several aspects of our planning to keep children safe.

- Our school will continue with the cleaning protocols on a daily basis as well as a more thorough clean on a Friday afternoon. This will be a strong factor in keeping your children safe.
- Normally, your child's teacher would have had planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time once a week and at a different time to other teachers. Our current plan will mean that they all take this together on a Friday afternoon. This will allow us to both reduce the number of adults working in each bubble and provide greater continuity for the children.
- As a result of not having to use staff to cover PPA, our school will then be in a stronger position to respond to staff absence or other emerging situations. This will help reduce the need for external supply staff and again mean less adults in a bubble. It will also ensure the school is more likely to be able to remain open in this ever changing climate.

It is vital after such a long time of disruption that no teaching time is lost. As a school we have ensured that we will continue to deliver our normal quantity of teaching through the staggering of the start and end of the school day and the revisions we have made to the daily timetables. We need to ensure that we strive to provide the very best for your child/children as we fully enter the next phase.

However, we do understand that for some families this presents a very real problem. **If both parents are working on Friday afternoons and there is no network to provide the childcare, we want to try**

and support you. If you feel that this is your current situation, please contact the school office by phone (01709 760345) or email (school@wcp.jmat.org.uk) by the end of school next Wednesday to let us know. Please entitle your email FRIDAY AFTERNOON SUPPORT.

This is an offer which **can only be made to families in this situation** and not the wider school community at the moment due to our Covid-Safe plans. We will then keep these families informed as we formulate our plans. Guidance to schools is regularly changing and I understand for parents that this can be both confusing and problematic. Please be assured that we will keep all our plans under regular review and ensure parents are informed, if and when further changes are made.

Thank you for your continued support.

David Silvester

CEO JMAT