

16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As this school year comes to a close, plans are being formulated to enable all of your children to return to school in September.

The safety of pupils has always been the schools main priority, and this will continue to be the case going forward. I know that a number of parents have voiced concerns, and with this in mind I think it is important to keep you informed of the schools plans and proposals.

Risk Assessments are being undertaken for all students and these will continue to be revised and updated as necessary. It is our intention to group students into class bubbles for the whole of the school day including lunchtime. There will be no whole school events such as Assemblies and many of the schools shared areas will remain closed for the time being, including the swimming pool. Rigorous cleaning and sanitising procedures have already been put in place, and where possible staff will endeavour to adhere to social distancing practices. Staggered start and finish times will also be implemented to reduce congestion and ensure that children can transition to and from the classroom safely.

I know that many parents have raised questions regarding the provision of school transport, and specifically whether applications need to be submitted as in previous years. Havering has confirmed that existing transport users do not need to reapply for the academic year 2020/21. New users will still need to apply, however, applications are not currently open.

The provision of transport does however pose further challenges in terms of minimising transmission of the virus. The option of keeping children in their class bubbles whilst on transport has been explored, however, class sizes, the children's individual needs and the practicalities of designing a route which covers in some cases a very large area mean that this is not possible. We have therefore suggested classes be placed into 'zones' of no more than 3 classes for transport only, which mitigates the risk of cross infection.

I must however stress that at this stage the arrangements for transport have not been finalised, and the suggestions submitted by school may be subject to change. We are working closely with the local authority, and they are doing everything possible to accommodate the requests from all schools across the borough, but as you will appreciate



this is a huge undertaking which requires careful consideration. As more information is made available it will be shared with you.

For those families who live in boroughs outside of Havering I would suggest you contact your local authority. The plans detailed above have been shared with your providers however some local authorities may be adopting different practices at this time.

I know that many of you will be feeling anxious about your child's return to school and I want to reassure you that we will do everything we can to keep your children as safe as possible whilst they are in our care.

Further updates will continue to be sent over the coming days and weeks so please do keep checking parentmail.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Bickmore'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mary Bickmore
Head Teacher