



23rd June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are well and will get the opportunity to enjoy this lovely weather. In the last 2 weeks we have seen the return to school for some of our pupils. It has been lovely to see and hear everyone again. The school has been following social distancing along with lots of hand washing and sanitisation taking place. It looks rather different with floor markings but children have managed very well with our new way of working. We know that those children who we are seeing are glad to be back. It has also been lovely to see more staff returning to school after what has been a lengthy period of isolation. The situation with transport is that they are observing social distancing and children are sitting by themselves with a space between each seat. Clearly, this is unsustainable if we have every child coming back however currently it is working well.

We have been contacted by some parents who have asked whether their child can return and where possible we have tried to accommodate; however, we are now very limited as numbers have gone beyond our capacity at the moment.

Teachers are continuing to contact you at home via Class Dojo and provide support for home learning, more of you are using google classroom too and I understand this is going well and parents feel well supported.

This is however no substitute for being in school, there is a lot of speculation in the media at the moment about what the next steps of lockdown will look like and we await guidance about schools. I want to reassure you that we hope that in September we are able to get back to as near normal schooling as possible. We are certainly planning for a **full return to normal** for all pupils in September.

In the background we have continued to work on our School Improvement priorities, last year we were allocated a substantial amount of money through the SEND capital investment scheme. This was to enable the school to improve the physical environment and work towards becoming one site.

Since then we have been working with the local authority on a short and long-term plan. We are pleased to inform you that work will be completed to provide classrooms for all our Communication and Sensory and Physical and Sensory Pathway classes to be located on our Kingsland site for September. Pupils in Early Transitions will continue to access their purpose-built classrooms on Beech Road but we are hopeful that by April 2021, at the latest, they too will be joining everyone at Kingsland Campus.

We have also secured a shop unit in the quadrant on Dunstable Highstreet to facilitate real work-related learning similar to the Phase 3 on-site café and shop which is in addition to our Allotment at Silsoe. Being together on one site allows us to ensure all pupils benefit from

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resources such as a sensory integration and rebound as well as our Forest school and outdoor learning facilities. It also allows staff to share good practice across the pathways and phases.

Whilst we understand that change can be daunting, our young people have demonstrated that when they are supported well they continue to thrive. Please be reassured that transition arrangements will be focused on pupils being well prepared, over the next week, we will send further information about this to you.

We are currently working on providing some kind of record of this year's learning, whilst we know this is going to be different, we want it to be a celebration of your child's learning journey this year and marking what will be an extraordinary period in all of our lives. We hope these will come out to you before the end of term whilst also providing the opportunity to virtually meet with class teachers.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to all of our staff, families and pupils who have been so supportive during this very difficult period and have faced the challenges they faced with humour and kindness. We are really looking forward to being back together again.

Kind regards,

Lisa Leonard

Lisa Leonard
Headteacher