

Wolverhampton City Council

Castlecroft Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

We are fast approaching the end of term and wanted to share with you our outline plans for September.

It seems a long time ago since schools were directed to close to the majority of pupils on 20th March and it is sad to think that, despite remaining open through both Easter and Whit week holidays, many of our pupils will not have attended school for nearly six months by the time we get to September. It is also sad that we have not been able to complete our normal year 6 leaving celebrations. Mrs Birbeck-Simpson has organised a virtual leavers meeting to allow the children and staff to meet for one final time and I am sure you will join me in offering our very best wishes to the children as they move on to their new schools.

We are travelling through the strangest of times and our return to school plans will depend on the threat from Covid 19 at the time of reopening. It therefore makes it difficult to give out precise plans of what the return to school will look like. We have already met as a leadership team to plan things out as best we can based on the current advice and detailed arrangements will be shared with you in the last two weeks of the Summer holiday once they have been modified in light of any changes in guidance.

I can however, confirm the following things:-

- We are planning to open to all pupils in September and the government have reiterated that attendance is compulsory for all children aged 5 and above.
- School will open on Tuesday 1st September beginning with 2 INSET days **therefore the pupils first day of school will be Thursday 3rd September.** I can understand that it may be frustrating for parents that school is closed for another 2 days when many pupils have not attended since March however it is essential that staff receive training on our new systems of working designed to keep everyone safe. We are also having extensive electrical work completed during the school holidays with school closed to all staff until the last few



days of August leaving us limited time to prepare. The INSET days will therefore also be used to return furniture to classes and to set up.

- Reception children will also begin a phased induction from Thursday 3rd September and families will be contacted to inform them of their start date.
- The 2m social distancing will remain in place within the building but not necessarily in bubbles.
- Children are to be taught in class sized bubbles and these bubbles are not allowed to mix. Children are to be sat at front facing tables.
- This means that there will need to be staggered start times to the day, staggered home times, as well as staggered break and lunchtimes.
 - We are planning for Year Reception 1, 3 and 5 to arrive from 8.45am for a 9.00am start and Year 2, 4 and 6 to arrive from 9.00am for a 9.15 start
 - At the end of the day Reception ,Yr1, 3 and 5 will finish at 3.15pm and Yr 2, 4 and 6 will finish at 3.30pm
 - Children will need to arrive on time and will go straight into school. We ask that they don't play on the playground and parents do not congregate at the gates or on the Infant Playground
 - Confirmation of these arrangements and more information about this will be given in August.
- There are to be no large gatherings therefore we will not be able to hold daily assemblies or even events like our harvest festival and it is unlikely there will be Christmas performances this year.
- Small group instrumental lessons delivered by Wolverhampton Music school will also not take place. instead there will be recorded online lessons for the children to access. More information about this will be provided to the families of those children who normally attend these lessons.
- We are considering how we can provide out of hours care to those families who need it. The difficulty lies in the fact that children attend Out of Hours club from all different year group bubbles and so should not be mixing together. We have sent out a request asking parents to inform us of their out of hours requirements so that we can plan our provision. **Please do let us know before the end of term if you wish to use the club and on which days.**
- **School Meals** - We are pleased to inform you that we are reducing school meal prices from September. A school dinner will be charged at £2.60. A discounted meal will be charged at £1.60.
- **School Uniform** - All uniform orders for September have now been sent in to our supplier. **They will be available for collection on Tuesday and Wednesday 1st and 2nd September (Inset Days) from the school office.**



It is unfortunate that I cannot give full details of our return in September but as you can see there is still much to organise and there is much that can change between now and then.

In the meantime I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful Summer holiday. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Dyall
Headteacher

