



Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely half term break and have started to settle back into a routine this week, whether this is with the home learning or with your children coming into school. A lot more people returned to work this week following the Government announcement to start easing restrictions, so the hub saw a significant increase in numbers. We had to make quite a few last-minute changes to our provision but as always the children have enjoyed their time in school and we welcomed 49 children across the week including 9 from Ashbeach and Upwood.

Keyworker hub closing

Our current provision at the hub closes today so we will no longer be working alongside children and staff from Upwood and Ashbeach schools which does feel quite sad after 11 weeks of working together. The hub has continued to provide childcare throughout lockdown for lots of different children and they have formed new friendships, as have the staff. During very uncertain and troubling times for families the hub has provided safety, stability and routine for the children, caring for them and ensuring they enjoyed their time in school. I would like to thank all the staff and children for making the hub such a vibrant and happy place and wish everyone well as they return to their respective schools.

The next phase of opening

On Monday 8th June we will be moving into a new phase of provision at the school. Our focus is no longer 'childcare' although we do continue to prioritise keyworker children. Our focus for children returning to school will be education. All keyworker places have been requested and allocated and these children will be back in school in their new groups on Monday. We will have 51 children of keyworkers and they will be based in Tigers, Pumas, Lions, Starfish and Seahorses classrooms with 6 children across our new EYFS groups. We had not anticipated such high numbers so, in response to this, we have brought forward the re-opening of two classrooms in year 1. It has been a little frantic getting everything ready but as always, the team have pulled together and done an amazing job so we are more than ready to welcome back the children and look forward to seeing them on Monday morning.

EYFS

The EYFS team have done an incredible job of preparing for the children's return next week. I don't mind telling you I had a little tear in my eye when I saw how they had transformed the learning environments. They have had to adapt their approach enormously to fit in with the Health and Safety guidance but I can see that the children are going to have a wonderful time and enjoy being back in school. We have 17 children returning over the course of next week, making a phased transition so that they are all in by Wednesday and we just can't wait to see them. Home learning will continue on Tapestry for all of the children who remain at home but please remember that Miss Bruce, Mrs Chivers and Mrs Smith are now back in school full-time so you may see a little less from them. They will try to keep in touch, I am sure but their opportunities to do this will be limited.

p.t.o



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If your child is returning to school next week...

Please can I urge you to read the letter that came home very carefully. I realise there is a lot of information to take on board, but it is very important that you adhere to the new expectations that have been put in place to keep the school community safe and retain your child's place in school.

Thank you

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for taking time to read all the lengthy communications coming home from school and for your quick and positive responses. I realise I have been a little demanding over recent weeks with deadlines and forms for you to complete but you have done everything that has been asked of you, sometimes at very short notice and it has really supported us with our planning and organisation. Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated at this time and I really hope that things will feel a little less overwhelming as school settles into it's new routine over the next couple of weeks.

Free School Meals

Please note that if your child is entitled to free school meals and is returning to school, you will no longer receive vouchers. If your child is not returning to school, you will continue to receive vouchers as you do currently.

During these difficult times there are an increasing number of families experiencing financial hardship as a result of unemployment. If your circumstances have changed, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals and I would urge you to do this. If you require support or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

School dinners

As you are aware all school meals are now provided by TDET catering. We have seen a significant improvement in the quality of food since making this change and are proud to have been able to provide meals free of charge to all children and staff in the hub with support from Upwood Primary School. The Trust have very kindly offered to continue this service from next week so that children can still receive a hot, healthy meal whilst attending school, please find the menu attached. We will be expecting all children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 to take their free school meal and will not allow them to bring a packed lunch into school. We will be encouraging all children in years 3-6 to take their free school meal to reduce the number of lunchboxes in school.

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that in amongst all this madness we did find time to interview and appoint a deputy head teacher to add additional capacity to our senior leadership team. Mrs Pawley has been appointed on a temporary contract for one year and I am looking forward to continuing to work with her in her new role. Congratulations Mrs Pawley!

I am also delighted to inform you that Ms Ireland is expecting her second baby which is really lovely news so many congratulations to her.

Planning for September 2020

Normally at this time of year we would be starting to plan for the next academic year and contacting you with information about class structures and teachers but of course these are not normal times so we are not going to be in a position to think about this for several weeks whilst we get the school up and running again in its new format. At the moment we can't predict what school is going to be like when we return in September which makes planning in advance very challenging. We will start to look at classes and teachers in due course and will let you know as soon as we have any news. Thank you for your patience.

EYFS 2020-21

We do know that we will be welcoming 45 new EYFS children next academic year and we are working hard to manage an online transition for them through Class Dojo. Staff will be making videos and providing information through the online portal and trying to get to know families remotely. If anyone would like to contribute to this from a parents'/child's perspective that would be lovely – perhaps you could share your experience of your child starting EYFS at Warboys. If you'd like to record something and post it in Tapestry or Class Dojo we could then download it and share it in the new parents area.



Communication

Please could we remind you that whilst we are starting to welcome more children back into school all previous expectations remain in place regarding communication. Visits to the school are by prior arrangement only so you are not able to 'pop in' to the office for any reason. All requests should be made via telephone or email. Please note that the office opening hours are 8.00am to 4.00pm although we will be closed for an hour at lunchtime.

Home learning

We will continue to plan and prepare home learning under the current policy which is attached again for your information. It is important that we sustain engagement with this so that children can continue to be supported at home. Teachers will plan all learning activities for the week and continue to post them in Class Dojo or Tapestry. Please be mindful that now the school is expanding its provision, teachers will be working in school for a large proportion of the week and will need to split their time between teaching in school and managing the children's work online. We expect to maintain the same high standards you have seen up to this point but you may experience a delay in teachers feeding back on children's work or responding to messages, and we thank you for bearing with us.

Over the course of the next three weeks we will be settling into this new way of working and, therefore, will not be able to consider any additional places. A review of the groupings will take place in the week commencing Monday 29th June and there maybe an option at this time to request a place for your child in the Keyworker, Year 1 and EYFS groups at this stage, but not before.

Once again, I appreciate that there is a lot in information here to process and digest. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office should you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Becky Ford

Headteacher.



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