



Monday 22nd June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

The last 3 months have been a difficult time for many: home schooling, work pressures, financial uncertainty and not to mention the overwhelming task of family life in confined spaces. For some, the impact of COVID-19 has been more direct and severe and to those we send our most sincere and heartfelt thoughts.

I would like to thank you again for your continued support and congratulate you and your children for adapting so well to the challenge of distance learning. You are all fantastic and we have all valued your hard work, effort and patience during these unprecedented times.

We are now approaching the end of term and I know there will be many questions on your mind about how this school year will end and what the new school year ahead will look like. Therefore, I wanted to write to you to let you know what our current thinking is.

End of Year Events

Summer term is usually filled with many popular social events at Kew Woods. Unfortunately, we cannot have whole school social events on the premises at this time so instead we have planned the following:

- Whole School Virtual Sports Day from Monday 22nd June, information is on the website
- Annual Prize Giving to take place in form of a Visual Presentation. Any pupils awarded this year will have trophies delivered to their home after the presentation is shared.
- Year 6 small group events planned (more information to follow)
- Transition activities to take place (more detail below)

End of Year Reports

Guidance has been issued from the DFE to confirm that regulations have been laid to remove the requirement to report on national curriculum assessments and attendance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reporting-to-parents-at-the-end-of-key-stages-1-and-2>

The Guidance states that Reports at the end of key stages 1 and 2 must cover:

- brief particulars of achievements in all subjects and activities forming part of the school curriculum
- comments on general progress

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- details of how parents can arrange a discussion about the report with their child's teacher

Therefore, our reports will look different this year. They will be a short report about your child's achievements and general progress made from September until March 2020. They will be posted the week beginning 29th June 2020. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher about the contents of the report, you can email school and request a telephone appointment for the week of 6th July 2020.

Ending the school year with current class teacher

At present, we are adhering to 2m social distancing rules and keeping pupil groups below 15. This means that we cannot have a class of 30 children together on site. However, we are looking into the possibility of giving every child an opportunity to spend one day at Kew Woods over the final weeks of summer term with their class teacher in their classroom. This would be in a small group situation so that the 2m distance rule can be followed. This would be one day only and it would be for the following purposes:

1. For children to have the opportunity to visit school and to see their class teacher before summer break.
2. For children to be able to see some of their closest friends and chat across the classroom to them before the 6-week summer break starts.
3. For class teachers to be able to address any worries or anxieties the children are feeling at this time and then be able to plan a personalized wellbeing support package for the children's return in September.

I am aware that some families are shielding and so this is not an option for them. Also, some families may feel that they do not want their child to attend this day and would prefer for them to wait until September. If this is the case the class teacher will arrange another phone call with you and your child to address any worries you have about the new school year ahead. I understand that all families have different opinions on returning to school and it is important at this time that we treat each other's decisions respectfully.

As you can imagine this opportunity will take careful planning and so we will need to have an understanding of how many pupils would like to return to Kew Woods for the day visit. There is a survey on the school website COVID-19 section for you to complete. If all families could complete this by **10am Thursday 25th June** this would help us to plan the possibility of this going ahead.

Next Year Class Teachers

With being a two-form entry school, having specialist Early Years teachers, specialist key stage teachers, staff leaving and returning from maternity leave, it is impossible for us to plan for our children to remain with their current class teacher as we move into the new academic year. Therefore, the children will have new teachers in September.

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It is important that we help your family get ready for this change and we need to do it in a different way than usual with the current restrictions. Your child's new teacher will prepare a video message to introduce him/herself and talk about the exciting year ahead. They will set a transition booklet for your child to complete so that they can find out important information about your child. The teacher will then use this information as part of the ongoing transition work, which will be taking place in September.

When the children return to school in Autumn term we will be planning set times each week for the previous teacher to complete some social, emotional and wellbeing work with each class to ensure they have settled.

You will be sent a message on parent's app on Wednesday of this week to inform you of your child's next class teacher.

Pupils starting in Nursery and Reception in September will receive a more detailed letter about their transition later this week. We are still awaiting some information from private nurseries to help us with our planning.

Year 6 leavers events

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the usual Year 6 leavers' events this year. I am glad that the majority of year 6 went to Robinwood in March and attended the London trip last May so that they will always have fond memories of the experiences they have had at Kew Woods. We will be sending out another copy of the 'Memory Book' so that children have a copy of this. We also have lots of other memory treats up our sleeve which will be coming the children's way very soon. So please be assured the children will not leave Kew Woods unnoticed!

If children are able to attend one day in the last week we are hoping to have a socially distanced picnic (McDonalds) treat with them. More information to follow.

Will the school be open during the summer holidays?

Our school will close on Friday 17th July to all pupils and reopen on Wednesday 2nd September but in what form remains to be dictated/decided by Government guidance and advice from the Local Authority and Trust.

When will the school plan for the next academic year be published?

These things are beyond the school's control and therefore we are unable to start outlining plans for the next academic year. The plan will be produced and updated in line with new guidance from government. If 2m social distancing is required we will not have the capacity for all pupils to return in September. If social distancing measures are reduced we will possibly be able to plan for part time education on site. If social

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distancing is removed and guidance says it is safe then all children will be able to return to school. I will continue to keep you updated on the school's plans throughout the summer break.

What will school do to catch up on any missed learning?

It will be our focus once the whole school returns to ensure that key knowledge and skills are prioritised and taught effectively to address any gaps in learning. It is also as important to ensure the children have a comfortable return emotionally and are able to strengthen their relationships with the teachers and peers. This will require careful planning and driven staff, hence why staff have been undertaking continuous professional development during this time.

When will breakfast club and After School Club reopen?

We will have to await governance guidance. Current rules on social distancing and pupils having to remain in their PODs/Bubbles does not allow this facility to open safely. Any prepaid payments for spring / summer term will carry over to when we reopen these services. Any refunds for pupils no longer needing this service will be reimbursed next academic year.

How can I prepare and support my child for returning to school?

We have created a wellbeing support and advice page on the parents section on the school website. We have started blogging two articles a week, which provide resources and advice for parents about approaching the return to school. Please watch / read the resource before showing to your child to check you are happy with the content. You know your child best and so you will be able to judge which resources are most suited for your child.

I hope this has answered many of your questions. I will keep in touch about any updates on transition, school events and plans for September. Once again thank you for everything you are doing to support your families at this time.

I am very proud to be the headteacher of such a wonderful school in such a supportive community as Kew Woods.

Take care

Christina Jackson
Headteacher

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