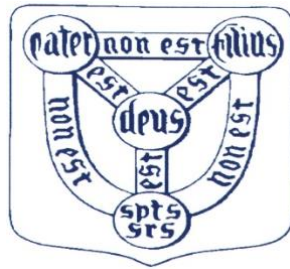


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

10th June 2020

Year One – Re-Opening – Information and Expectations

Dear Parents,

We hope that everyone in your family remains well. The children are in our thoughts daily and we would like to thank you for continuing to support them with their home-learning. We understand the pressures families are under and we are looking forward to schools returning to normal when we are told it is safe to do so.

The school is currently providing full-time places to Critical Workers' and Vulnerable children. These children will continue to be taught in two separate groups (a 'younger bubble' and an 'older bubble'). The school is also now providing part-time places to Reception children on a Wednesday and Thursday.

As detailed in our previous letter sent to all parents on the 3rd June, the decision to offer places for Year One children from Monday 15th June would be communicated to parents today.

Primary schools have been asked to prioritise places to vulnerable children and critical workers followed by Reception pupils, Year One pupils and then pupils in Year Six.

Reception and Year One are being prioritised by the Government for several reasons. Firstly, because seemingly there is scientific evidence to suggest that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus, and secondly because evidence also shows that time spent out of education can have a detrimental impact on children of this age. Schools are therefore being asked to prioritise the return of younger children first.

We are very aware that our Year Six pupils will be moving onto their secondary schools in September and will benefit immensely from spending some time with their peers and their teaching staff here at Shellingford before leaving. We are very sad that we will not be able to celebrate the end of their primary schooling in our normal manner. However, our intention is to allocate a few days before the end of term to allow the children and staff to spend some time together. What the school will be able to offer will be determined by the availability of staff, alongside our detailed Risk Assessment. A decision will be made next Wednesday 17th June and communicated to our Year 6 families.

As previously explained, this a continually evolving situation and our plans will be subject to change but we will keep you updated on a weekly basis.

Our plan from Monday 15th June is detailed below:

We have carefully reviewed our staffing capacity, maximum safe group size, and the physical space available and as a result the school is able to offer 8 part-time places for Year One children on a Monday and Tuesday only. These sessions will start at 9.30am and finish at 2.45pm. Obviously, we wish we could offer more but it is just not possible because of the lack of available staff. As we previously explained, each bubble of pupils requires two dedicated members of staff. The bubbles are considerably smaller than our normal class sizes due to the social distancing requirements and you will understand that this stretches us to the limit.

The safety of your child/ren and our staff continues to be foremost in our planning. ***Please do reread the letter dated 27th May 2020*** which contains all the information for parents. It outlines the many protective measures that are in place to reduce the risk and transmission of coronavirus and to ensure that everyone takes as much care as possible to avoid groups of children, parents and staff coming into contact with each other.

If your child is in Year One and you would like them to attend school, please complete the attached 'Year One Form' and email it to the School Office by 12noon tomorrow (Thursday 11th June.) Please note as there are only 8 places available places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please note the following three points:

In accordance with national guidance, pupils who are already in the Critical Worker and Vulnerable children bubbles will currently remain in these bubbles and will not be able to move to the Year One bubble (if they are in that year group).

Secondly, if a member of staff becomes ill and is not able to attend work then the school may have to close the bubble at short notice. This decision will be made early in the morning (unless the member of staff falls ill during the day) and communicated to parents via email. Please be sure to check your emails regularly throughout the day as this will be our main means of contact.

Thirdly, once schools reach their capacity, and can no longer offer any more places to pupils, parents will be directed to the OCC 'School Place Availability.' This is central team who contact other local schools to ascertain if there is a place available in a 'host' school.

Once again, we understand that this is an unsettling and difficult time for us all, but please be assured that we are doing our utmost to make measured decisions for the following week based on current Government guidelines and OCC advice. Our key aim always is to look after our children to the very best of our ability. If you have any further questions, then please contact the school and we will do our best to try and provide you with answers.

With many thanks for your support and best wishes to you all.

Judith R Terrell
Headteacher

Anna Marlow
Chair of Governors

Helen Wilson
Vice Chair of Governors

Church Street, Shellingford, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7QA
Tel: 01367 710301 email: office.3853@shellingford.oxon.sch.uk
www.shellingford.oxon.sch.uk