

Dear parents and carers,

So, guidance has arrived for September and I can finally confirm that all children will be back in school full time from Monday 7 September – hurray!! Since March, all of us (parents and staff) have been in job roles we weren't prepared for, and although we have all done our very best, I am sure we are all longing for some normality now. For you, that will be sending your children off to school every day (hurray!) and for us it will be having all our children under one roof and teaching them face to face (hurray!)

Since 8 June when we re-opened for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, the school has been operating under strict guidelines and operating routines that ensure the risk of transmission of the virus is kept to a minimum. The concept of small 'bubbles' was developed, with the requirement that children in different bubbles do not mix. The new guidance retains the 'bubble' concept and now each class will be a larger bubble. Bubbles will still not generally be able to mix, so we are in the process of working through how we adapt our school day to ensure that we can do this, as far as possible. This will involve having more strict time slots for arrival and departure, staggered playtimes and lunchtimes. There are other measures that are new, such as children being required to sit at desks in rows, facing the teacher, but many of our classrooms have already had this arrangement anyway.

Over the last half term, we have had to develop new protocols and a new Home School Agreement, for those children returning to school. These set out very explicitly how we have to operate to be as safe as possible. Over the next week, we will be adapting these to reflect the new guidance for September. I will share these as soon as I am able. I would like to reassure you though, that we have aimed to balance safety with normality and those children who have been back in school, have adapted very well and taken everything in their stride.

I will be writing next week to give more detailed information about how school will operate in September, and how we are preparing for the children coming back into the classroom learning environment. In the meantime, I can now share with you the class teachers for next year as follows:

Acorn - Mrs Tagger (M,T,W) and Mrs McInerney (Th, F)

Willow - Mrs Balls

Hazel - Miss Hensleigh

Cedar- Miss Nutland

Rosewood - Miss Ivory

Cherry - Mrs Gawthrope (M,T) and Mrs Faulkner (W,Th,F)

Maple - Mrs Culley & Mrs Wheatman

Thank you for sending in your questionnaires, these are extremely useful and will help us in planning for next year.

Finally, thank you to everyone for embracing the whole school Land's End to John O'Groats challenge. As of this morning, we still had 150 miles to go to the target. I am sure we will smash it over the weekend!

Have a good weekend.

Laura Latham

Headteacher

Bourn Primary Academy

01954 719282