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29 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I hope you have had a wonderful half term and enjoyed the fabulous weather.

SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS

As detailed in my last letter, to clarify, after careful consideration of all the evidence, the Governing Body made the decision that the school will continue to be open for vulnerable pupils and key worker childcare but **will not open for any other year groups until at least 15th June.** Therefore, you **should not bring your child to school** until further notice unless they are registered for childcare at Castle Park.

CHILDCARE AT CASTLE PARK

Childcare for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers whose employment is crucial to the COVID-19 response continues to be provided at Castle Park. However, I must remind parents that your child should not be accessing childcare at Castle Park if there is an adult at home who could look after them. Staff have much to prepare in readiness for when we reopen, and where they are not needed to look after your child, they should not be required to do so. Please do not ask school to look after your child when this could be done safely at home. Thank you for your cooperation.

As we continue to prepare for a time when it is safe to reopen the school, it is important for you to understand that it will look and feel very different to what the children (and staff) are used to, and I am sure you will have seen much in the media about this. Children will not be taught in their normal class groups and will probably not be with their normal class teacher. They may not be in their normal classroom or even in their usual building. This is because we are having to accommodate groups of no more than 15, and less in some cases where the classrooms are too small to accommodate social distancing. There will be clear routines that include much handwashing during the day. Classes will not be permitted to mix with each other at all during the school day. There are extensive measures that have to be put in place in order that the school can operate as safely as possible, preparing for 2m social distancing and extra cleaning/sanitisation procedures. This careful and thorough planning takes time and attention to detail.

I will write again in the next weeks with more information. I will then ask to you to consider the information and make a firm decision regarding whether your child will be returning to school when we reopen. Only then can I confirm the exact arrangements for your child when the operational plan is confirmed and approved.

I hope this has helped you to understand some of the challenges facing schools currently, in order to operate as safely as possible once we welcome pupils back to Castle Park again. I ask that you remain patient as the governors and school staff ensure we can reopen, with the confidence that the school is as safe as it can be for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H F Richardson

Headteacher

