



24th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and that over the summer you have had a holiday of sorts. Some of you may have been lucky enough to get away but even if you didn't we are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the country.

I just felt the need to touch base with you all and let you know what has been going on at Swansfield in readiness for our return on Wednesday 2nd September.

Over the holiday we have managed to run Tic Toc, continuing to provide much needed child care not only for our working parents but for those in neighbouring schools as well. Following the success of our Golden Ticket programme last year we have been working with a group of children focusing on literacy and numeracy skills. So school has been buzzing with chatter and laughter throughout the six weeks. My thanks go to Liz Tears, Jenny Carr and their team of play workers and Matthew, Daniel and Ruth for their patient tutoring.

There has been a lot of work carried out refurbishing the toilets in Apple, Pear and Plum classes as well as partitioning the boys toilets to provide separate facilities for the children in key stage 1 from those in years 3 and 4. We will be tackling the girls toilets in the October half term holiday. We have installed an outdoor sink to aid our rigorous hand washing regime and a temporary path around the climbing frame to help us establish a one way route during drop off and pick up. A new, middle gate to provide better access to Beech and Oak classes is imminent. New, state of the art interactive screens have replaced the old white boards in the infant and lower key stage 2 classes and we've finally replaced the old blue venetian blinds in KS1 classes with lovely new roller blinds - purple of course!

Obviously now our thoughts have turned to the reopening of school to all children. We are ready. Last term we managed to get up to 168 children back to school. This has given us a lot of knowledge, experience and most importantly confidence. We will focus on safety, establishing routines and keeping to our bubbles (even though they are now class size). Each class has two members of staff, their own entrance and their own schedule in terms of drop off, pick up, break and lunch times. A focus on hand and respiratory hygiene and an established one way route around the building will help to mitigate against any possible infection.

As a reminder here is the schedule for drop off and pick up

Time Zone	Early Years	Key Stage 1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
8:35am – 2:50pm	Pear	Ash	Willow	Larch
8:45am – 3:00pm	Apple	Beech	Chestnut	Sycamore
8:55am – 3:10pm	Plum	Oak	Maple	Rowan

It is important that we minimise the number of people on site at any time so we ask that only one adult accompanies their child to school and remembers to socially distance when on site. We were very impressed by our older children last term. They came to school independently, on time and adhering to social distancing. This responsible behaviour helped to keep themselves and others safe and we are sure this will be maintained this term.

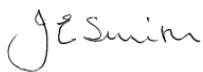
Things will be different, we are not able to hold assemblies except for class groups and of course some of our usual autumn term events will have to be rethought. This will give us the opportunity to focus on well-being, learning and making up for lost time. The staff will be spending the training day on Tuesday planning catch up programmes and rejigging the curriculum to ensure that missed learning will be addressed.

I am confident that with our “can do” attitude, positivity and support from all our families we will return to school smoothly and soon be back on the road to success.

Remember that there is a Covid 19 page on the school website with all the latest information including our risk assessments. Please contact me via the admin email address if you need further help or information.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon - from a safe distance of course!

Best wishes



Jenny Smith

Headteacher: Mrs J E Smith BSc PGCE

