

22nd May 2020

Dear Kilmorie Families,

Following on from earlier correspondence about the government plan to start a phased return to school I wanted to update you. Thank you to all those parents of the specified year groups who responded to our questionnaire regarding this. Your questions, comments and answers have contributed to our planning. We are still waiting on further government advice as to whether the key tests have been met before the phased return can start and our understanding is that this will not be until 28<sup>th</sup> May.

I hope you read the open letter from Councillor Barnham, Cabinet Member for School Performance and Children's Services for Lewisham. In the letter he states that, '*Any decision to increase numbers in school and the timing of a phased return of year groups will be taken by individual schools, based on careful planning and risk assessment in the context of their school, taking into account the welfare of both children and adults*' and that these decisions '*should not be rushed - important concerns have been raised, by education unions and parents, which need to be properly addressed.*' This has been our approach when risk assessing and planning throughout.

Since the easing of some lockdown measures, we have had a marked increase in the number of key worker and vulnerable children accessing the current provision and we know from recent requests that this will continue to increase after half term. To ensure we are in line with the new government guidelines, these children will now need to be taught in separate 'bubbles' after half term. Our ultimate priority is the safety of your children, so before we introduce more year groups into the school, we need to be confident that we can manage the safety of children and staff within this new structure.

We will therefore not be opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, at the moment, particularly in light of the many concerns raised by parents, which we feel we have had insufficient time to adequately address. After considerable thought we have decided that when we are able to start the phased return we will start with year 6 pupils in a measured way and only after their successful reintegration will we consider other eligible year groups. We look forward to welcoming our fantastic Kilmorie children back but it can only be when we are confident we can meet all the safety measures outlined in the government guidance.

We are constantly reviewing the situation and we will be in touch after half term with any updates. After half term the bespoke remote learning planned by class teachers will continue as will class letters and we will be introducing a platform for videos and audios. Many children have enjoyed contact with their teachers via [info@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@kilmorie.lewisham.sch.uk) and this has been an opportunity for sharing learning and getting feedback. It has been a great source of celebration in class teachers' letters. I hope this will continue. Please do phone the school or email if you need some specific advice about the learning or need support in any way.

I understand how difficult this situation is for you and I want to reassure you that we are committed to making the best judgements we can for the safety of Kilmorie families and school staff and their families. These are challenging times and your support and understanding is paramount.

Yours faithfully,



Liz Stone  
Head Teacher