

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parents/Carers,

**School will finish at the end of the day on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July and we will be closed for ALL pupils until opening on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

## Reopening of School September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

The government has stated we will be open for all children in September. The government guidance has to be interpreted by DCC before we can finalise decisions about how the school will operate in September. There are actions we must take (for instance extended handwashing) and those we could take (e.g. how we use specialist staff). However, we can say that:

- We will be following the government guidelines with regard to cleaning, additional cleaning through the day, handwashing, ventilation of rooms, etc at the same level we have been following since June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend settings. Engage with the Track and Trace procedures and Public Health advice.
- Drop off and collection times will be staggered by class so that the entrances/exits to school are not crowded.
- Lunch and breaktimes will also be staggered through the day.
- We will be providing lunches in school with the intent on all children having access to regular hot meals. However, this will depend on the Risk Assessments.
- Our first few weeks will focus on getting the children being used to being in school, playing with their friends again and feeling good about being back in school. Once settled we will be able to then focus the children on the process of learning again.
- We will be providing a full and balanced curriculum for your children, not a slimmed down English and Mathematics only curriculum. Without motivation and interest children will not learn.
- We will be 'baselining' the children after a few weeks and use this as evidence towards any support programmes we may need to use for pupils and groups of pupils.
- We will be returning to wearing school uniform.

Direct Information from the government for parents can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm\\_source=9%20July%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=9%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

The government has asked us to look at maintaining a 'bubble structure' but to adapt this to our school. A bubble simply means minimizing contact between groups of children and/or staff. However, this will depend on individual school circumstances from September. A few schools may be able to maintain 'class' bubbles, but many may not be able to due to staffing, subject specialism (including violas and maths), room space, playground access, dining room access, etc.

As we write the Pilsley Staff Team are looking in to how we will operate successfully to ensure pupils get the maximum benefit from being in school. We are particularly concerned that we, as a family based school, ensure the social and emotional health of our pupils as well as their physical health. To that end it is more than likely that our bubbles will include more than one class.

**We will be in contact with you via the school app and the website nearer to the day when school opens to give more details.**

**We will provide you with a drop off and collection time as well as which entrances to use.**

## Seesaw Home Learning and the Summer

Seesaw will require you to scan a new code from 14<sup>th</sup> July for it to remain active. The new code has been printed and is ready in your child's Report envelope. The code can be used immediately.

*Please remember to use your new Seesaw codes as teachers and school may well use Seesaw to communicate with you as well as using the school app.*

During the summer Seesaw will remain open and we will be sending out activity ideas – these are there for you as parents to use if you need them. Teachers will not be responding to posts as I've told them to have a rest but they are there for those difficult days when you simply need something to do with the children.

## Big Cat Phonics Reading Books and Collins Connect Reading

These we have been assured will be open during the summer for parents to continue to use for reading books.

## Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize

Your children need a rest from Home Learning over the summer (and you too). With social distancing being relaxed spending time with extended family and friends will be vital to get them used to socialising again.

***Laughter, play and fun will be the best things for them to overcome any anxieties before they return to school.*** We will pick up any gaps in learning when they come back, but being socially ready to access learning again will make that so much easier.

However, for some parents the lifeline of having something to do may remain, especially after being out of school so long. Oak Academy has much improved over the last few months, we've had some good feedback from a few Y6 pupils who have begun to use it regularly. It can be found here:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>

and BBC Bitesize here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

***But we feel being socially active is THE most vital thing for your children to be doing. This will help their return to school more than anything else - having fun would be our main recommendation.***

# End of Year News

**We hope you all have a super summer. Through a difficult few months all the children and parents have simply amazed us with the work that has been completed, with the videos and photographs you have shared and those special moments you have allowed us to see that have also kept us going.**

**We hope that we have been there for you when you needed us.**

**See you all in September, we look forward to a full and happy school once again.**

Take care and enjoy the summer



Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team