

## **Phase 1 extension (15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June) and Phase 2 information (June 29<sup>th</sup> onwards)**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for all your support and patience at this this most uncertain time. It is incredibly challenging in school and we are doing our utmost to have as many children in school as safely as possible. Equally, I know how challenging this is for you if your children are at home. There is nothing we want more than to have all the children back, but this is simply not possible with the current safety measures we have in place. We are very proud that during lockdown we were open every day for children of critical workers and were able to open more fully on June 1<sup>st</sup> (start of Phase 1) for all designated children that requested a place. Since coming back, the pupils have been happy, the parents have been respectful of all safety procedures and the school has been able to operate in a limited capacity.

Thank you to all the parents of designated pupils who responded to Monday's letter, requesting a place for their child for the Phase 1 extension (June 15<sup>th</sup> onwards). We are pleased to say that we are able to offer a place for any of those requests made by deadline and will contact parents individually tomorrow to inform them of what group their child has been placed in. Please note that due to a higher demand, there will be some children who will be in a different classroom, who will not have their usual adult, who may not have their usual friendship groups and who will be with children in other classes. We have tried our best to keep children in a familiar setting but this has not been possible due to the key principles of children remaining in small consistent groups. To reiterate, the pupils who are starting for the Phase 1 extension will be placed in existing bubble groups.

Please note that if your child did return on June 1<sup>st</sup>, they will remain in their original bubble group (these will not be changing for the duration of the term): this is to reduce any contamination and the possible spread of the virus.

For the Phase 1 extension, the procedures have not changed. Therefore, please refer to the re-opening letter sent on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. It is very important that you familiarise yourself with the details included and that all members of the school community follow this (to the letter) in order to minimise risks.

Following yesterday's announcement, the Secretary of State for Education clarified the position regarding the full opening of primary schools before the end of term. He accepted that schools cannot welcome back all students, but went on to say that if schools have capacity they could take back more pupils if they chose.

At Gade Valley, we do choose to have more children back and it is our hope that from June 29<sup>th</sup>, we are able offer provision to more pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. This is all still dependant on any further guidance and most importantly whether we have the capacity to do so. At this time, I feel we would be able to offer some provision but cannot at this stage confirm what it will be. However, I am hopeful and positive that this can happen.

It has been reported that the government will devise a priority list, agreed with Public Health England, so that where schools have capacity, they can welcome back more children this term – this is likely to be published next week. Once there is more information, I will write to you regarding any extra provision that we can offer from June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you again for your fantastic support – at times like this it so comforting to be part of such a wonderful school community. I would once again like to thank the dedicated staff of Gade Valley who are so committed to the children and to the school.

Take Care  
Mr Barron - Headteacher