



Be the Best You Can,
Guided by God

BOLNEY C.E.P. SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Kenny, BEd Hons, NPQH

Monday 22nd June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach our final four weeks of this unprecedented school year, we are writing to you to share the plans for the rest of this term.

Since the closure of the school back in March, the Governors have met almost every week to ensure we, and the staff, have been able to provide the best possible provision for all of the children whilst not compromising anyone's safety. As many of us are parents of school age children, we do not underestimate how much work is going on at home and how difficult the current situation is for everyone. We want to assure you that we have been considering many options to get the children back to school, but due to the size and layout of our school, together with the number of staff available, it has proven to be very challenging.

At school, we currently have 38 children of key workers. This is the second highest number within the NEARs locality. Other local schools such as Twineham CEP School, only have 7 children of key workers and have them in a group with their year 6 children as this number does not exceed the maximum 15 allowed. Our key worker children are in 3 groups. Each group is in a classroom and another area of the school as we cannot fit all 15 children in the classrooms. This means that both the hall and the library are also being used. 12 children from Year 6 are also in Willow classroom. As all the rooms in school are being used, all of the staff are needed to cover these areas. The result of this is that we do not have any available rooms in the school building to take any more children with the current restrictions of 15 in a group and the 2m distancing rule.

The Governors have recently been investigating alternative options like using the Rawson Hall or putting a marquee on the cricket field. The Department for Education has now stated that 'community buildings (such as village halls) should not be used to expand capacity this term, while they remain closed in line with the government's roadmap' so we cannot use the Rawson Hall. We have carefully considered using a marquee on the cricket field. To do this we must complete a rigorous risk assessment and meet the limitations set by the government. In looking at these we are particularly concerned about a number of things:

- Children and staff would be outside the school grounds all the time and we have no control over who uses the field.
- We would need to have the 'doors' of the marquee open while the children are using it which is a safeguarding risk as anyone could wander in.
- We would not be able to keep the equipment safe when it is not in use by the school.
- To minimise the risk of infection we have been advised to remove all soft furnishings from rooms and as the marquee is fabric we would not be able to meet the cleaning requirements.

Taking all of this, and our safeguarding responsibilities into account, we have decided that the risk is too high at the present time and this option is not viable. We have not taken this decision lightly as we know how much it would mean to the children, and to yourselves, if more year groups could come back to school. However, as always the safety and well-being of the children and staff at our school remains our absolute priority.

Although we cannot currently provide regular sessions for all the children, we do believe it is important to provide some transition support as they move into their next year group. We have therefore agreed that each year group should be invited onto the school grounds for some outside activities before the end of term. This will allow the children to see their friends and spend a little time with their teacher before they hopefully return in the autumn. Mrs Kenny will plan the dates for these sessions with the staff and send confirmation of these to you as soon as possible.

To recap what we have in place until the end of term:

- Continuation of home learning activities including videos
- 38 (currently) children of key workers in school
- 12 Y6 children in school
- Story hour for Y1 and YR – over 4 weeks
- Transition sessions for all other year groups

We appreciate all that you continue to do at home to support your child/ren with their learning. If you need any further support please do contact the school.

We do not know how Government policy and guidance will change over the coming months but the Governors will continue to meet regularly and keep you informed and updated regarding plans for September.

Yours faithfully,

Bolney CEP School Governors

Lorraine Kenny
Faye Heath-Lay
Becky Harrison
Ros Barton

Judith Kew
Clare James
Carole Wood
Angie Nagendra

Dr Tony Bond
Gemma Spencer