

24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

On the 16<sup>th</sup> June the government updated its guidance to primary schools, confirming that we were not expected to welcome back all pupils before the summer holidays. In the guidance, schools that have the capacity to take in more pupils, were given the flexibility to do so. However, current advice from the local authority is to continue operating as we have been since the 1<sup>st</sup> June, and to not make any changes to our current provision, until further detailed guidance is issued by the government. There has been no more information at the time of writing this letter, therefore we continue to follow the current provision.

Our third round of booking closed at midday on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Children were allocated spaces according to the government guidance, whilst taking into account the established year group organisation of the bubble groups. We have capacity on site for 105 children and became full to capacity in round three, with a waiting list. Of the 105 children in school, 60% of the places are currently allocated to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

Admitting further children is likely to take considerable additional resources and coordination at a national and local level, and this would need to be worked through before we could begin to change our own plans for a fuller reopening. Unfortunately, we simply do not have the space nor the levels of staffing available to open to all year groups under the current government guidance. Ensuring bubbles of 15 children and their staff do not mix during the day, whilst still providing cover for break times and lunchtimes, and maintaining home learning, took weeks of planning to achieve and involved reorganising every learning space in the school.

The government has promised to give schools updated guidance within two weeks. It is my understanding that this guidance will be to allow us to plan for opening for all children in September. I therefore feel it is only fair to be honest with you. At this late stage in the school year, it is very unlikely that we will be admitting more children before the end of term, other than from the round 3 waiting list (should places become available).

We continue to do everything in our power to be ready to welcome all our pupils back to school and hope that we are given the guidance at a national level as soon as possible so that we can prepare for September. I understand that this message seems to sit at odds with government announcements this week about further relaxing of lockdown measures, aimed to get the economy moving. We are sorry that this situation is a disappointment for many of you. I hope you understand that this is not the plan we would have chosen for ourselves.

Yours

Ben Tull  
Headteacher