

Coronavirus Update 8

Dear Parents and carers

We are in week 2 of our “new normal” at school. Approximately a third of our Reception children have returned to the classroom and are working safely in bubbles. The same children are always with the same members of staff and have designated work spaces and areas for play. The other class spaces have groups of key worker children from other years. Again we have timetabled staff and spaces to ensure that these bubbles remain isolated from each other.

On Monday night, we held a virtual governors meeting to discuss the bubble sizes and capacity to invite more children back into school. Given the current guidance from the Department for Education on creating bubbles, staffing these groups, social distancing and hygiene arrangements, it was agreed that the school had reached its safe capacity. We are using the outside space as much as possible (weather permitting) to limit the time spent in classrooms. Again, we have had to divide this space up to create areas for each bubble to learn and play safely.

Today the Government have announced that they are scrapping plans to have all children attend primary schools for a month before the summer holidays, something that would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, to organise given the safety measures needed. At SWIS, we have fulfilled the requirements of the Government in offering places to our Reception children. We do not plan to extend opening to more year groups.

We understand that this will prove difficult as more workplaces open and expectations are placed on employees to return to work. We hope you can understand the reasons for our decisions.

We will, of course, continue to keep you updated on any changes. Invariably these changes are communicated to schools at the same time as the general public and we have had to make difficult decisions with limited time and often with conflicting guidance.

The school will keep a “waiting list” of parents requesting places and will offer these if space becomes available. This also applies to any parents of Reception children currently home schooling.

We have begun to look at some potential plans for September and will be communicating these separately to parents of each year group. We will continue to provide general updates to everyone as and when we have more guidance.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to discuss any of the information in this update.

Kind regards

J.Cook

J K Davenport

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

