



Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end week three of welcoming more children back to Montgomery I can inform you that we now have a hundred children who are able to come back to school. This makes up nearly a third of our school population! We have expanded our bubbles to now take 12 children which will be shown on our adjusted risk assessment available on our website from next week. Our current COVID-19 risk assessment is already on our website.

Requests for children to return to Montgomery

We have had an increasing number of parents requesting their children to return to school. As an Infant school with a high percentage of service families we have nearly 90% of our families who are eligible to return under the government's priority guidance. This of course cannot be possible under the current preventative measures that are in place.

We have tried to accommodate as many requests as possible but the safety of our children, staff and families must take precedence. If you have enquired about a place recently and have not received an email from the school informing you of a space, your child will be put on our waiting list. We are currently at capacity. We have 5 full time classes with 12 children in, across reception, year 1 and year 2. These are for our critical worker and vulnerable families. We have moved from providing a child care service back to an educational service and children who are coming in are being taught a planned curriculum by our teachers. Those children who are continuing with home learning are receiving the same lessons via Tapestry.

In addition to this we have 2 part-time reception classes of 12 and 2 nursery classes of 10 children. Each of these also contain a high proportion of critical workers.

Government guidance on flexible approach to more children returning

The government issued further guidance on the flexible approach schools could have to inviting more children back. Within this guidance there is an opportunity for primary schools to have face to face contact. We are looking in to how this might enable us to have small groups of children in for a session towards the end of term, as an opportunity to say good bye to their teachers and a few friends. We are also looking into how we can create smooth transitions for our children and new starters.

Next week I will be issuing a letter which will inform you of your child's class in September. At the moment we are still not sure what September will look like but we are hoping to be able to get all our children back in some form or other, again we are waiting on further government guidance.

Reports of summer 'catch up'

There has been lots of mention on the news regarding 'summer catch up' for children who have not been in school during the pandemic. As a school we have no plans to be open during the summer holidays. Staff have been in school since partial school closure in March. We have only been shut during the short May half term to enable us to prepare for wider opening and place the preventative measures that the government imposed. Staff are continuing to support children in school as well as providing online learning



for those children still accessing home learning. The response to this has been amazing and I thank you once again for all the support you have shown towards the school.

As always the staff at Montgomery are working their socks off to create a joyful learning environment for our children. The Summer holidays are a much needed break for staff who have had to juggle, as you have, work commitments, caring for vulnerable family members, home learning for their own children and child care issues. They have truly earned their summer holiday. I say this loosely as teachers will continue to come in over the holidays (as they always do) to make preparation for the new academic year. Mr Whybrow and our cleaning team will be busy making sure the school is the best it can be for a September start. The best 'catch up' we can provide for our children is to ensure that our staff are well rested and have the time to prepare for the new academic year, where they will continue to meet the individual needs of children, teaching them from where their starting point is and ensuring that each child is supported to do their best.

Once again can I please remind you that we are here for you, please phone if you need support. We will do our best to help you.

Take care

Miss Bridgeman

Headteacher