



The Mill Messenger



Update Letter

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We hope you are all well and keeping going! Our numbers are steadily increasing as more parents are newly employed as key workers, existing key workers are taking on extra shifts, and some who had a partner working at home are now able to go to work safely, so children need spaces. Some other families entitled to spaces have also decided to take them up and means we're starting to feel a bit more normal and it gives us some useful practise about teaching social distancing and keeping safe in the school environment. We are making sure we increase our staffing ratios to support this. The children as always are absolute stars.

The focus is on one key subject really in this week's update and that is how we are getting ready for the school to reopen safely. We obviously do not know when yet schools will reopen, but are expecting to hear more from the government next week.

There are a few things that we are already planning, such as removing furniture from classrooms and organising separate equipment where possible to ensure children can have more space. We are looking at staff training and virtual meetings around teaching children how to social distance, keep cleanliness levels high and how our daily school routines and movement around the school including pick up and drop offs will be set up so as to help everyone keep their distance. We are also having to plan cleaning routines differently and more frequently. It means the school will feel a bit different for a while, but we can learn a lot from how supermarkets are managing larger groups of people and there will be some spacing-out and signage to help both children and adults to do this. We have a Health and Safety team at TKAT who ensure we have the right guidance and checks.

Once the government has outlined how it expects schools to reopen, we will be in touch with you about your child's return. There's a lot of talk about the return to school being 'phased', so that could mean groups of pupils rather than everyone all at once. But we will wait to be told and then take it from there.

The government has made it clear that when it announces the plan, schools will be given enough time to organize reopening safely, so rest assured there will have been time to plan things through properly. We have been doing this already behind the scenes as I've mentioned.

Thank you this week go to all of our office staff, who are now in school one day a week getting things up and running and our premises staff who also work on a rota to ensure the school site is safe and clean. Our thanks go to Mr Fenton, Miss Stiller, Miss Slydel, Mrs Clark and Mrs Creswell on the teaching staff team.

Let's hope that all of your patience, understanding and amazing efforts to stay home and keep safe have meant we are able to start getting your children back to school safely and learning with their friends again sooner rather than later. Thank you all.

Kind regards

Sophie Gosden
Headteacher