

PRINCIPAL: PEGGY MURPHY, MA
HEAD OF LOOSE SITE: TIM WILLIAMS, MA (Ed)
HEAD OF SATELLITE PROVISION: RICHARD DALTON, BA
BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9QF
TEL: OFFICE 01622 743925
EMAIL: office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk
WEBSITE: www.fiveacrewood.co.uk



6th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

Updates

- We know that you will be keen to find out what is happening after Easter.
 - At the time of writing a very small minority of staff (about 5%) are able to come into School as they do not have to self-isolate or stay at home for any reason.
 - We suspect terms 5 & 6 will bring even more difficulties as we are nowhere near the peak of this epidemic according to the experts.
 - We fully appreciate how truly challenging a period of time this is for everyone.
 - After Easter, our strong desire to care for, educate and support our pupils and families, will unfortunately need to be balanced by the practical constraints of a reducing staff workforce. We are also very mindful of the fact that wherever possible and safe to do so, children should still continue to stay at home as there is an increased risk of spreading the infection within the School setting. Scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is very clear - if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. "Stay at home and save lives" has been the Government's mantra and our continued aim is to therefore have as few pupils and staff in School as possible.
- With all of this in mind, after Easter, we will only be offering provision for a small number of pupils on any day. We will not be able to offer 5 day per week provision for any pupils, and we will have to allocate the provision that is available on a priority basis. We fully understand that the priority for all families will be their own children; unfortunately, given our likely staffing capacity we realise that we will not be in a position to prioritise everyone, and we will have to make some very difficult decisions, in collaboration with other professionals e.g. Social Services and the Local Authority. Please respect our decisions – we will always try to do our very best with the limited resources available to us, and the challenges we face right now. We do not want to come into conflict with you.
- We will be sending out a follow up 'Google Form' to all parents / carers today in order to ascertain your views. Please can you complete this as a matter of urgency in order to facilitate our future planning.
- We are very mindful of the fact that we are sending out a lot of information to families via email and Parentmail – these are the most efficient forms of communication, particularly given our skeleton working staff. However, it has become worryingly clear that not all families are accessing this information and / or completing surveys, resulting in us then needing to follow this up by phone, which can be inconvenient for you and difficult for our skeleton working staff. We fully appreciate how difficult things are right now – however, in order to make best use of our resources, and the support we can provide you with, please can we ask that all electronic surveys are completed and communications read.
- Please ensure that we have your up to date contact information, including email address, as this is our primary form of communication. To update your email on our system please send an email to office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk, clearly identifying your name, child and class.

Take care all.

Kind regards

The Senior Leadership Team

