



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

Brantwood Rise

Banbury

OXON

OX16 9NH

Tel: 01295 251631

Email: office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and have been managing to dodge the thunder storms this week.

It has been another busy week at school, with staff juggling teaching children in school as well as setting home learning and phoning children. The attendance has been approximately 45% across the school this week of year groups that are invited back. Please find below our current capacity in existing bubbles:

Nursery- Mrs Marsh	Reception- Miss Hollidge	Reception- Mrs Guntrip	Reception- Mrs Tyler/Thorpe	Year 1- Mrs Bibi	Year 1- Miss Robinson	Year 6- Mrs Bridges	Year 6- Miss Jeffries	Year 6 - Mrs Thomas	Year 6 - Miss Fowler
2 mornings only	1	5	3	1	1	3	3	6	5

If you would like a space please email the office. Requests received after 4pm on Thursdays won't be guaranteed to be allocated for a Monday start the following week.

Latest guidance published has said that schools can start to assess what capacity they have to invite more children back. Therefore I emailed the year 5 parents on Wednesday to gauge their thoughts about sending their children back for the last 3 weeks of term, for mornings only. I have a bit of capacity to potentially do this, but will make a final decision on Monday 22nd June and will email Year 5 parents then. I cannot accommodate all the year group at once, so will need to think through a plan once we have numbers from the questionnaire we emailed these families.

Free School Meals: I was delighted to hear that the Government are going to continue to provide Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers throughout the summer holidays to support families. We have again seen a hike in the number of families in receipt of Free School Meals to the highest we have ever seen and an indication of the financial hardship families are suffering. Please do contact Debbie if you need information about the local food banks and the office if you feel your circumstances have changed and you might be eligible for FSMs.

Children currently attending school: The children have been amazing and have adapted quickly to schooling under the new rules and routines. Just a few reminders:

- Children should only be accompanied by 1 adult on school premises in order to adhere to social distancing and prevent gatherings.
- Please ensure you have read the recent information we emailed from Public Health England which reminded parents about the risks of car sharing with other families and not having sleepovers between friends.
- We have had to send home some children who are coming into school and telling us they are on medication. Please do not send your child in if they are on medication and are ill.

Information for Key Workers and vulnerable families using Queensway childcare: Please ensure you email the office every Thursday by 4pm your childcare requirements for the following week in order to secure a place. We cannot guarantee a place if this deadline is not met.

Home learning: You will have seen in the news this week that many families are struggling to do home learning now the time has gone on. Please can you keep trying though; little and often. Follow the children's interests where possible. If they show enthusiasm for a particular topic or activity go with it! If children don't return until September, 6 months is a long time out of education and more importantly the process of learning. It

is a tough balancing act between nurturing the children and coaxing them to complete work against totally putting them off and having to get cross, but persevere. Please ring if you need any help.

Last week we prepared work packs for a group of families who were struggling to access technology and have other agencies supporting them. Teachers prepared hard copies of everything for the families to collect from reception. Only two were collected from school following reminders. Therefore, if this happens for two consecutive weeks without making contact with us, we will withdraw this offer, as it is incredibly time consuming when staff are working very hard, spinning lots of plates already. Thank you for your understanding.

Teachers will be posting on the blogs the weekly home learning tasks by today at noon for next week: Class blogs can be found via the class pages on the school website:

<http://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=32>

Support for parents: Please find attached the latest Mental Health newsletter. [MHST Primary Newsletter 6.pdf](#)

Access to paper and pens: Please can you let us know if you are struggling to access basic resources such as paper and pencils which you need to complete home learning and we will see if we can help you.

Old books: If anyone has any old books we can distribute to families with access to very few books please do drop them into reception. And equally if you are a family without books for the children to enjoy please get in contact with us.

Children in Year 6- Walking to and from school: I have emailed parents of children attending in the Year 6 groups to say that if they sign and return the permission form their child can walk to and from school by themselves. I wanted to make everyone aware of this agreement so that other parents don't panic if they see Year 6s walking unaccompanied. We do this in Term 6 of year 6 in readiness for secondary school. They should still be socially distancing.

Finally, our new wooden gazebo has been installed this week! We are all looking forward to when it is safe to use outside play equipment and see the children actually using our new equipment and having fun on it.

Keep well and stay safe,

Mrs Sarah Horbury Jakeman
Head Teacher