



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Sally Clarke

Monday 29th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you all still keeping safe and well.

As promised I am emailing with further information to support you and your children in the run up to starting school with us in September.

There is now a page on the school website called Reception class 2020 which can be found under the parent heading by hovering over the admissions tab. Or you can click on the following link: <https://www.midhurst-primary-school.co.uk/parents/reception-class-2020/>

On this web page you will find copies of the letters you have received from us so far, as well as two video presentations. The first of these is a 20-minute slide show to welcome you and your children to Midhurst Primary and further explain information we would usually have shared at our new intake evening. The second is of Miss Channon providing a virtual tour of the classroom as it looks when school is open normally.

There are also links to Miss Channon reading stories to her current class, something she has offered during the lockdown period.

I know that Miss Channon is also in the process of setting up an online app called Seesaw for her new class so that families can communicate with her over the summer break. Further information and instructions of how to use this app will be out next week in an attempt to get everyone set up and started before school closes for the holidays.

We are still awaiting government guidance for how schools are expected to open to more children in September. My 'hunch' at the moment is that we will be fully open, but with restrictions on how we work day to day – especially with regards to gathering in larger groups. I anticipate that we may have to continue with staggered drop off/pick up times and playtimes, lunches being served and eaten in class bases and assemblies being offered virtually if possible. But please do note – this really is just my hunch – no clarification from the government has been published at this point. AND of course, this could all change if there is any significant increase in cases of Covid 19.

It is however highly likely whatever the guidance, that we will welcome our new reception class in slowly, in smaller groups, over the first 2 weeks of the Autumn term. This is to help our team of staff in Reception to get to know your children individually, meet and spend time with parents and fully support this important time of transition. I am aware this may cause issues with regards to parents own work commitments but strongly feel this slow start is in the best interests of all the children joining us and the staff. Further information will follow as soon as we know more, but at the moment we anticipate some degree of part time school provision from Monday 7th September to Friday 18th September, with an aim to opening fully for the whole of Reception from Monday 21st September.

I am not entirely sure how we will re-open fully to the rest of the school year groups either at the moment. If we are expected to abide by social distancing rules and other restrictions similar to those we are currently following, it is possible we will take this re-opening slowly across the whole school too. And while I absolutely understand the frustration and uncertainty this causes for families, the safety of all children and staff have to be our top priority at

this time. I will of course let all parents know as soon as further guidance is published and we have risk assessed the situation for our setting in September.

I know how keen we all are to welcome all children back through our doors but I am sure you will appreciate the need to do this safely and carefully.

I am aware that this probably isn't the way you expected your child's first few days at school to be and appreciate that this may cause more worry and concern for you, your child and wider family. Please do rest assured that we fully intend to be with you every step of the way and will do our very best to make this time as happy and as comfortable for you and your child as possible.

Many thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Sally Clarke

Headteacher