



NANSTALLON SCHOOL

AD VITAM PARAMUS

19 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Communication Update - June

We are now reaching end of the second week of our phased return for Y6, 1 and Reception. Whilst this has gone well, we are already seeing the wide spread of different needs the children have.

What we have learned

It is evident that we need to rebuild habits and behaviours, social norms and connections that lead to successful learning. Having spent so much time physically away from friends, many children need support and structures to help them interact socially with others face-to-face. Mental challenge will increase slowly too, ensuring that children can resettle into classrooms and wider school life.

Therefore, we will be focusing on giving emotional and behavioural support to our children before expecting them to pick up their academic achievements as soon as they come back into school. Please note that if you child has/is not returning to school, this will remain a vital focus in September also.

Our aim and national guidance for wider opening

From the outset, the governors and I hoped to offer a more equitable timetable but government restrictions has made this impossible. I would like to be clear that like you, we are living with this muddle and it is not the making of school and planning has been made more difficult by the every changing goal posts set out by the government. Therefore, under the restrictions, children can only attend school for learning on a part time basis.

Thank you to parents in Y2 to 5 for responding to our survey; this has made planning for the remainder of summer term much easier and we look forward to seeing more of the children back in school next week. I will not write the arrangements here, as we have contacted parents on an individual basis in response to the survey outlining those details. For all parents it is important to note that, learning activities will continue to be posted on Seesaw and Tapestry for remote learning. Children who attend school for the part education agreed earlier this week will be expected to access tasks on the days they are not in school if possible please.

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Transition

Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July will be transition days for children to spend with their new class and teacher. I will write and make a video for children and parents at the beginning of July to explain about new classes and the curriculum for September. I really hope that all our pupils will return to school for the sessions we will offer.

Monday 20 July will be the last primary school day for our Year 6 children.

We plan to invite new Reception and current Reception children in for the first 2 days of September term before all pupils in the remaining year groups return on Monday 7 September. Please note that this is our intention, but we await official confirmation from government. I will communicate any further guidance as and when we receive it regarding September.

Curriculum in September

In the coming weeks, the teachers and I will be planning the curriculum for September. We will aim to continue with our child-centred approach ensuring children have a collective and democratic voice in the themes of study and their class names. However, our focus, alongside rebuilding social norms and connections, will be to recover the curriculum missed since March. We envisage that most of the autumn term will focus on recovering objectives, skills, knowledge and understanding from the point of the curriculum they had reached before the school closed. As I said in my letter back in March, we will meet children where they are and tune in to this with each child during the opening weeks.

Despite what the media might communicate about 'catch up' programmes, Nanstallon School will be closed for the duration of the summer holidays. However, there is an initial promise from government of funding allocated to 'catching up' which we will welcome and use from September, but we await the detail.

Prior to the pandemic, a new revised statutory Relationships and Health Education curriculum was set to be implemented in primary schools from September. Schools have a duty to share their policy with parents for consultation. Given what I have just said about the curriculum in Autumn term, we will share this with you in the first half term but will not implement it until Spring 2021.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to you all, for your patience and support.

Warmest regards,



Ben Stephenson
Headteacher