

Dear parents and carers,

With your support, over the last few weeks we have taken steps to successfully welcome children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back into school. It has been so lovely to see children and their families, and a pleasure to be able to accommodate more pupils to do their learning in school. Everyone is following all of our new rules, enabling us to keep all children and adults as safe as possible. The children have done so well in adapting quickly and adjusting to new routines.

Thank you to all of our families – you are all doing such a wonderful job in supporting your children’s learning, whether that’s at school or at home. The last few months have been such a challenging time for you all, and you have our utmost respect for everything you’re managing to do.

### Context of government (DfE) guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) issued new guidance earlier this week outlining the flexibility primary schools now have to bring more pupils back beyond current levels. The guidance is clear that there is no expectation that all schools will be able to do this, and that schools must only consider bringing back more pupils if they have the capacity to do so whilst adhering to current safety measures and limiting pupil group sizes to no more than 15.

### Are we able to welcome back more ‘bubbles’ of children from years 2-5 at Lighthorne Heath Primary?

There is no one more concerned about the well-being and achievement of the children at Lighthorne Heath Primary School than our governors, senior leaders and staff. I hope that it goes without saying that we would love to be able to welcome more pupils back into our school. Over the last few days, I have been exploring the ramifications possibility of taking back more children with Mrs Birch and our governors, and looking for a good solution for everyone. We feel confident that we are in a good position to be able to safely welcome every child back to school from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Hendriksen will be making calls to every family over the next few days to find out whether or not you will be choosing to send your child back to school from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June so that we can organise our new ‘bubbles’ and ensure we have staffing in place.



### Transition arrangements

We have also been considering how best to bring a sense of 'closure' to this year and facilitate transition opportunities ahead of September, and we would like *all* pupils to have the opportunity for face-to-face meeting with their new teachers before the end of the term. We feel that we are able to do this in line with current protective measures in the last week of term.

## **Current Year 6**

Our Year 6 cohort have been a wonderful group of children all the way through Primary school. It's been great to see some of them enjoying being back in school, and starting to focus on their transition to Secondary school. They will soon be starting to plan their end of year activities with their teacher. Regrettably, it is not going to be possible to put on our traditional end of year leavers' assembly, so we are currently working with the children to ensure that we mark the end of their time at Lighthorne Heath in a special way and celebrate in style, within the government guidelines! There will be a special end of year pizza lunch for Year 6 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, and they will be presented with their leavers' certificates, a gift of a leavers' hoodie and a graduation photograph in the afternoon (regrettably, parents will not be able to attend).

## **Summary**

- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – All children welcome back to school
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Transition / Change-over Day for all children in Years N-5
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Celebrations
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – End of Term

## **What is happening in September?**

The government has still not announced its plans for all schools nationwide from September, but because we are a very small school at Lighthorne Heath, we are able to safely accommodate every child from 29<sup>th</sup> June.

We really hope that every child will return to school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June so that they can start to catch up on any gaps in their learning and see their friends. However, we understand and respect your decision if you choose to wait until September for your child to return to school or will happily discuss individual needs with you during the telephone calls.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Birch, Mrs Hendriksen or me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Juliette Westwood  
Executive Head Teacher