

June 12th 2020

### Update on the situation regarding children in Years 2,3,4 and 5

Dear Families of Arnett Hills

You will all be aware of the latest ministerial directive this week stating that the original plan to phase in the reintroduction of Years 2,3,4 and 5 has been changed. The Secretary of State for Education said the following: **"While we are not able to welcome all primary children back for a full month before the summer, we continue to work with the sector on the next steps."** He continues by saying: "We will be working to bring all children back to school in September."

To date, I have not received any guidance about September.

The restrictions to date mean that we have been able to accommodate Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in less than half class size 'bubbles.' We have also been required to create bubbles in order to maintain provision for the children of critical workers and children who come under the category of 'vulnerable' regardless of the year group they are in. (EHCP, current involvement with social services or School Family Support Worker)

The number of children eligible to access school through the critical worker criteria has steadily increased and I am expecting this number to increase as parents are called back to work or are required to work additional hours/shifts. We are therefore in the process of reorganising the physical environment and arrangements (staffing, classrooms, toilets, lunch and playtime routines) to create an additional 'bubble' for them from next week onwards.

If you think you qualify as a critical worker, please read the government document which contains a list. Please send me confirmation from your employer of your status as a key/critical worker.

**We are unable to safely accommodate the return of Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 in half size groups from June 22<sup>nd</sup> - I know this is not what you want to hear and for that my sincere apologies. I do not take for granted the monumental efforts that you as families have had to make.**

#### Thinking ahead about what we are able do for you before the end of term....

Whilst minimising risks indoors (through rearranging rooms, distancing, staffing, cleaning etc.) has been and continues to be challenging, we are fortunate to have a large playing field and I shall be looking at ways to try and utilise this for the benefit of these four year groups.

I shall monitor the weather forecast and organise with the class teachers an afternoon rota for having one class in on the field area from 1pm to eat their packed lunch outside (picnic style) and to do safe non-contact outdoor activities spread out in small groups so that, as many as want to come from each class, may be accommodated. I will need to assign one toilet facility to this class on their allotted afternoons and have them deep cleaned before use by another class on another afternoon.

This arrangement will be an opportunity for the children to socialise safely as a class unit whilst being engaged in activities. However, not all families will want their child to return under any circumstances and **we fully understand and respect that point of view.** I will inform you of any developments and dates relating to this idea.

#### What we are able continue to offer you

**Daily live lessons** will continue to take place

Miss Wenham, Mrs. Boydon, Miss Armstrong and Miss Mallouppa will continue to plan and deliver **two lessons each morning.**

Mrs. O'Neill will upload the work to Teams and the school website [www.arnetthills.herts.sch.uk](http://www.arnetthills.herts.sch.uk) in each **year group's folder** under the 'Out of school work' tab

Further **learning materials** are available on the following sites should you need them (many are free at the moment). As well as the free sites listed below, school has subscribed to Nicholas Roberts Publications. This covers many curriculum areas, has virtual books and audio. It is definitely worth looking at. Details for logging on are included in the list

- Twinkl (free) - [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) - you can create a new account and download PowerPoints etc.
- BBC Bitesize Primary (free)
- Phonics Play (free) [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- Nicholas Roberts Publications [www.nicolasroberts.co.uk](http://www.nicolasroberts.co.uk)  
Username wd34bt Password writing
- Carol Vorderman Maths (free) [www.themathsfactor.com](http://www.themathsfactor.com)
- Oak Academy online lessons (free) <https://classroom.thenationalacademy>

**Resources** - Please let me know if you need **assistance with paper for your printer or pens/pencils/ exercise books** as we can order these and receive them usually within a week.

### **Recommendations**

For those of you having to work from home, doing activities with your child/ren is not often practical and I hope the items in the section '**What we can offer you**' assists you in organising your day.

You may wish to keep the more formal learning to the morning and have more relaxed afternoons. Each family is different but we do not want you to feel that you have to make your children work all day.

For those of you who do have time, I am sure you have lots of ideas but here are a few suggestions for you:

- Share your own 'passions' with your child - a time to pass that on
- Teach your child to follow a recipe weighing out items and cook something tasty!
- Get out in your garden to plant and tend vegetables and flowers
- Keep a nature diary in the form of drawings/paintings as well as descriptions
- Play board games - so many learning opportunities occur naturally
- Read to your child or listen to audio books then chat about the storyline and the characters
- Write and post letters to friends and relatives
- Craft / junk modelling activities
- Design (draw and describe) a healthy sandwich or a 'marvellous' sandwich!
- Some children are having on-line music lessons (could this be of interest?)
- You will also find a link to sports activities 'Stay Active' under the '**Out of school work**' tab on the school website

There are no certainties about how life will look in September in any sector but I am at least able to inform you of the staffing for the next year:

Reception - Miss Hacking, Y1 - Miss Nutt, Y2 - Miss Wenham, Y3- Miss Brianese, Y4 - Miss Armstrong, Y5- Miss Mallouppa, Y6 - Mr. Sills

We welcome Miss Brianese to the school. She is already in assisting, having successfully completed her training and dissertation. She joins us in the most unusual of circumstances but has already brought a positivity and 'can do' attitude with her.

As I said earlier in this letter, I wish I could be the bearer of better news. We always try to look for solutions at Arnett Hills but I have to put the safety of the staff, the children and the families of both of these groups to the fore of any decision making alongside the actual risks and practicalities such as insufficient accommodation and personnel.

I thank you all for your patience and understanding in this matter to date and as we move forward. Please rest assured that I will continue to review arrangements and will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely

Miss T. Ali