

SEBERT WOOD PARENT AND CARER UPDATE – 3 July 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are into July already and I don't think any of us imagined we would still have so many restrictions in place and school having to operate in the way it is.

Since my last update we have received some emails asking for further clarification about September opening. We have now received new guidance about September but I want to clarify that schools only receive the guidance at the same time it is published to the general public. *We do not receive it in advance or get any additional information!*

Alongside analysing what the new guidance will mean for Sebert Wood we are busy finalising classes and teachers for September, but as you will no doubt have seen in the media, 'bubbles' of some kind will continue. Some of the guidance is similar to the measures that have already been put in place to minimise risks, such as hygiene regimes with regular hand washing and additional cleaning. The children will continue to have their own stationary which they won't share and staff will have to maintain social distancing from each other and children as far as possible. The main change is in the size of the 'bubbles' within school, which from September will be whole class or year groups. Children will not be expected to maintain social distancing from others in the same group but the groups must have limited contact. This is going to have an impact on how we organise activities like drop off, pick up, lunchtime and break times. We will now begin planning and will let know what we have put in place as soon as possible.

The Department of Education rightly take a cautious approach to schools and the current guidance (as of 1 June) remains in place until the end of term. Given the situation we are in, I must also point out that everything is subject to change. We know from earlier experience during the pandemic that the guidance is frequently updated and we have all seen the recent events in Leicester.

For now we are looking forward to the 'catch ups' on the field next week. These are an additional social activity that had to be carefully planned in line with current guidance, as according to it those children who are not currently attending school are not allowed in the school building. These 'catch up' sessions are not about catching up on school work. I think that because the government have used the term 'catch up' for their programme from September this may have caused some confusion. Some parents have also asked why children currently attending school cannot join the 'catch up' bubbles but we have to adhere to the current guidance, despite the wider relaxation of the rules outside of school. If children in school were to join the 'catch ups' it could compromise the existing 'bubbles'.

Finally, please note that Mr Noe will be uploading fitness videos to the 'PE & Sport' folder in the *Teacher Video* section (within the 'Home Learning' page of the school website). Under normal circumstances many of the children in school would have been partaking in Sports Days, so we hope these will inspire everybody to keep active.

Take care and have a good weekend.

Peter Dewhurst and everyone at Sebert Wood.