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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

Monday 17th May 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone has had a lovely weekend.

As the restrictions are slowly being lifted, I wanted to confirm that there are no changes to our arrangements. We will continue with the extra hygiene routines; hand washing, additional cleaning of bathrooms, surfaces, shared equipment, etc and ask that all adults and children over the age of 11 years, (unless medically exempt) wear masks on school premises.

The issue of the residential is still unresolved I am afraid. We are waiting for Hawse End to confirm their protocols and procedures, but like everyone else they have to contend with changing guidelines and rules. Although on the face of it, it would seem that if all restrictions are lifted on the 21st of June we can just go ahead, but as you are all aware there are many risk assessments to be completed, sent to the Local Authority's Educational Visits Officer, who then reads and approves the documents or asks for amendments and then agrees that the visit can take place. The usual timeline for this, is that all of that paperwork is in place 6 weeks before departure and we have already passed that date. So in a nutshell, we are waiting to hear from the Local Authority to see if the paperwork can be submitted later than the usual in light of the current circumstances, and also to see if Hawse End are a) prepared to host overnight visits and b) to ascertain what safety measures they can put in place for us. Hopefully we will know more sometime this week.

Similarly, some parents have enquired about sports day, leavers assembly and the other events we usually have in the summer term. Honestly, we just don't know, everything hinges on the Government's roadmap to recovery and we are, just like everyone else, waiting to find out when/if these things will be safe to resume.

I am sad to report that Sam, our lovely lunchtime organiser of over 3 years, has had to hand in her notice. She is suffering terribly with Long Covid and her recovery is much slower than hoped. I know that the children have missed her and still ask after her. We all send our best wishes for a full recovery. Louise has been doing a great job covering this position and has happily agreed to continue to do so.

As we approach the summer we can look forward to welcoming Fraser back in to school each Wednesday after half-term to provide cricket coaching to all three classes. We have also arranged for Cyclewise to come to school during the week commencing Monday 28th June to enable all pupils in years 5 and 6 to participate in their cycling course. Those pupils will need a bicycle and cycling helmet in school for the whole week.

Finally, we have two offers of help from parents to build the new shed and re-site the existing shed, as well as an offer of equipment to assist with the work, for which we thank you. If anyone else is able to help please can you let Mrs Lawson in the office know as soon as possible so that we can arrange a date that suits all those involved with the work.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Sweetman