



Irthington Village School  
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**Headteacher Lynn Harrison**

10.06.20

Dear Parents and families,

It was lovely to speak to so many of you last week, during our catch up phone calls home. We really appreciate your support and hard work during these challenging times. We know that keeping motivation and enthusiasm for school work can be difficult, please don't be too hard on yourselves or your children if some days, school work is just a step too far!!!

In a bid to make home learning a bit easier, we have put the most current work for children in a folder called 'Summer Term June – July'.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any help with any aspect of the home learning, we are keen to help.

Trying to keep abreast of the latest announcements from the government is quite a task! This week we have heard that the plan to bring back all children to Primary Schools before the summer holidays has now been dropped. The teaching unions have also urged schools to be very cautious bringing back Reception, Year One and Year Six. Despite the trials and tribulations of home learning, nearly everyone we spoke to, still feels that it is too soon for pupils to return to school. We have therefore decided to move back the start date for Year Six until 22<sup>nd</sup> of June or possibly later. We will hopefully then have a better picture of the national and local situation. We will keep this under constant review, as we would really love to see our Year Six pupils back in school at some point before they transition to high school.

With the end of term just six weeks away we urgently need government to provide as much clarity as possible about their plans for September and beyond. All schools will need to plan ahead, possibly for several scenarios, so time is of the essence. We are considering many options, including part time education on a rota basis, revision and catch up programmes, keeping children in their original year groups for a half term or longer and many, many more possibilities! At this stage, we are still at the 'considering all options stage', as making any firm plans for the unknown is simply impossible!

One of our biggest obstacles is the potential for 35 children in Class 3. This would not be in anyone's best interests, so there is a distinct possibility that the current Year 3 may well be split across Classes 2 and 3 to even out the numbers and to provide the best matched education for the individuals concerned. I must stress we have no firm plans in place as of yet, but as soon as we do have we will let you know.

I will be available all day tomorrow, 9am – 3pm, if any of the children would like to ring me for a chat! The staff will be phoning home again sometime next week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

*Lynn Harrison*