



Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

2 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families continue to be well and have been enjoying the more summery weather of recent weeks. I am writing to update you as to some changes that we are looking to make as we head towards the end of the summer term.

As I am sure you are well aware, for the past four weeks we have worked well towards the government's wishes of having specified year group pupils, as well as the children of key workers, back in school. I am very pleased to report that the staff have worked hard to carry out these wishes well and as a result, we have had more than 220 pupils back at school. It is with sadness that despite the recent announcement that schools were able to welcome back extra year groups this has not been possible. Under the current conditions that we rightly need to operate in order to maintain social distancing and pupil safety, it is obvious that we would not have the space or the staff to do this and that our other year groups would need to continue to take part in home learning. However, I would like to take this opportunity to communicate how things will be organised over the last few weeks of term, where we will be offering all pupils an opportunity to transition and meet their new teacher for next year.

After discussions with staff and the Governing Body, I have decided that the current provision that we are offering to key worker pupils and those pupils in years N, R, 1 and 6 will end on **Friday 17th July**. The home learning will also finish on this date, although other opportunities such as the Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize, which your children may have become familiar with, will continue to be available. We will then offer every pupil, from the current year R up to year 5, an opportunity to have a transition session with their new teacher on one of either **Monday 20th**, **Tuesday 21st** or **Wednesday 22nd July**. Pupils who are starting Garlinge in Year R in September will also come in with their parents on these days for an individual meeting with their teachers, to allow them to become more familiar with their new adults and new classrooms. We will give more details on these Reception meetings in a separate letter.

I understand that this will mean that the current year 6 pupils will now finish at Garlinge on **Friday 17th**, but this will allow them to finish on a high on that day and we will also be doing whatever we can under these circumstances to ensure that pupils leave us with the same rites of passage as previous years. This will also mean that the key worker provision will finish on Friday 17th July. I understand that this may not be ideal but I am hoping that with the notice that we are giving it will not be too significant a problem. I am very proud of the way that my staff have continued this provision over the past three and a half months throughout term time and school holidays and I know that it gave the staff a real sense of well-being to have been playing their part in the strangest of circumstances.

This decision will also allow us to give all pupils a fantastic chance to have an extended transition session with their teacher for next year. Whilst we usually have a 90 minute session assigned to meet the teacher and TA, we will now be able to allocate a four hour session to every pupil within the current year R to 5 classes to do so. As mentioned above we will be sending out further details very shortly in a separate letter, inviting each child to one of the three days allocated of the final week of term (**Mon 20th – Wed 22nd**) to spend time, in a group of no more than 10, to become familiar with their new adults and new classroom. Details of who their new teacher will be and which classroom they will be in will also be sent home with the invite.

I hope that this letter clearly outlines what will be happening over the coming weeks in order to allow all of our pupils to come into school, after what in some cases would have been nearly four months. Of course there is no obligation for you to send your child in for the transition sessions, but we do feel that they will be of great benefit for them if they do attend. As has been said frequently, these have been unprecedented times and ones in which many difficult decisions have had to be made and I assure you that once again I have taken this decision in the best interests of all of the pupils of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'J. Williams'.

James Williams
Headteacher