

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure welcoming more children back to Foxmoor. The systems that we have put in place are working well and the children and staff have been brilliant adapting to the changes that we have had to make.

I know many of you will have seen the announcement from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, that the government have scrapped their goal of all children attending primary school for the last four weeks of the summer term. Mr. Williamson did state that where schools have capacity, they would be allowed to welcome children from year 2, 3, 4 and 5. The announcement was discussed at length during a meeting of the full governing body on the evening of 10 June 2020. I want to give you the context at Foxmoor and explain the reasons why we do not have the capacity to welcome more children back before the end of term.

When the government announced that schools could accept more children from 1 June 2020 the senior leadership team and governors worked hard within the current guidance and made extensive plans to ensure we could safely welcome children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Despite the guidance stating that schools should not plan to provide provision on a rota basis, I know that some schools did choose this option. At Foxmoor, we felt that if possible we should open up fully to all qualifying year groups whilst still providing support for key worker and vulnerable children. With careful planning, we were able to achieve this.

Foxmoor is a larger than average primary school. In addition to this, our admission number is 37 for each cohort. Due to the guidance stating that there can be no more than 15 children in any one bubble, we have had to split each year group into two/three bubbles. Due to parental take up, we currently have two Reception bubbles, two Year 1 bubbles and three Year 6 bubbles. Alongside this, key worker numbers have increased. We currently have two key worker bubbles and from 15 June 2020, this will increase to three. This means that at present, all teaching spaces are occupied and all teachers are teaching full time. We simply do not have any spare rooms or teachers to teach extra children.

I know, like all of the staff at Foxmoor, children and parents will be disappointed at the government's decision. I also know that parents are concerned about the amount of time that their children have not been in school and that they have concerns regarding the work that their children have missed. While this will inevitably have an impact, I can assure you that when all children can eventually return to school, the entire team at Foxmoor will work tirelessly to bridge the gaps in children's learning.

With regard to learning at home, we have provided a range of resources that parents can access on the school website. All of the resources are useful in their own way. I know some parents are working from home and will not necessarily have time to trawl through the range of resources on offer. I would like to draw parents' attention to some particular resources.

The Hamilton Trust provide resources in English and Maths. Each set of resources is separated into year groups and each pack provides a full week of resources. There are also videos offering tips for parents. The Hamilton Trust resources can be accessed by following the link below.

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/>

The Can Do Maths Activities cover year groups 1 to 6. These are updated on the school website on a regular basis. Packs are available for each school week. They provide a range of activities for children to complete on a daily basis. There are also answer sheets so that children can check their work. The Can Do Maths activities can be accessed using the link below.

<http://www.foxmoorprimary.co.uk/Parents/online-learning-rsources>

BBC Bitesize have created daily lessons in all areas of the curriculum. These lessons include online videos, example questions and practice activities. These can be accessed by clicking the link below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

In addition to this, the government have developed the Oak National Academy. This website offers guidance and explanations for parents and children, including recorded video lessons and activities. The expertise and resources that have gone into creating this website far exceeds what would be possible by individual primary schools. The Oak National Academy resources can be accessed through the link below.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

We are hopeful that in September we will be back to normal and welcome all children back to Foxmoor on a full time basis. No one, including the government can categorically say what position the country will be in at that time regarding the coronavirus pandemic. While the school will have to wait for and work within any future guidance issued by the government, we have already started to make plans based on several different scenarios. As and when the Government issue guidance regarding September I will write to parents to keep you informed.

Kind regards

Mr. Bridgewater
Headteacher