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LAUNDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

New Street Oadby Leicester LE2 4LJ

10 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 6

A number of parents have been enquiring about the date for Year 6 children to return to school. We are now in a position to give you further details.

As you are aware schools were to open from 1 June for the required planning and preparation and introduction of year groups. As indicated in our earlier letter we would take a very measured and cautious approach to opening the school to a wider group of children.

Foundation started on 1 June and Year 1 joined them this week. The number of staff used has doubled for these two year groups due to the small bubbles of 15 that we are allowed. Many schools as a result of the above are unable to accommodate additional year groups due to lack of staff and space. We have followed the government guidance on admitting the youngest children first but even then, children of key workers or vulnerable children take priority over other year groups.

At Launde we are fortunate that we do have space and we will be able to accommodate Year 6 on a part time basis from Thursday 18 June. Half the year group will attend on a Monday and Tuesday, the other half on a Thursday and Friday. On the Wednesday the school will be closed for cleaning in the Year 6 areas and for teachers to have their planning time. Normally the children had Madam De Bue and Mrs Pyne during time that teachers were planning but unfortunately we are not allowed to add more people to the bubble therefore planning time is coinciding with the deep cleaning between the two groups. We can also ensure that the children have their own teacher when in school by doing it this way.

The school will appear very different to the children and the normal end of Year 6 activities will not be taking place for obvious reasons. It is sad that we cannot do the activities but our priority is the safety of our pupils and staff. Normal transition work to secondary school will not be taking place as the children cannot visit the next school and the staff from those schools are not able to visit Launde. The staff are talking to the secondary schools and passing on the relevant information for each child.

The arrangements for opening the school for Year 6 are as follows:

School day

The school day has to be staggered for all age groups so Year 6 will start at **8.30am** and finish at **2.40pm**. We will request all children to leave the site promptly and if you are picking up your child please wait outside of the school grounds and your child will come out promptly to meet you.

If parents are dropping off your Year 6 child, you are requested to leave them at the school gate. Parents will not be allowed to come onto the school premises. Staff will be waiting outside to greet the children.

On Thursday 18 June we would like the children with surnames beginning to attend:

Watership Down	Surnames A-K
Oakwood	Surnames A-O
Cader Idris	Surnames A-F

On Monday 22 June we would like the children with surnames beginning to attend:

Watership Down	Surnames L-Z
Oakwood	Surnames P-Z
Cader Idris	Surnames G-Z

The children would then attend the same week days until Tuesday 7 July.

Classrooms

Inside, the classrooms will look very different as all soft furnishings and fabric based items have been taken out of the rooms. Each child will have their own set of school equipment which they cannot share with anybody else. When working at tables there will only be one child at a table and the tables will be spread out across the classroom space to ensure social distancing.

Uniform

Children need to come in their normal school uniform and they will take their coat to the classroom. Please make sure that all school uniform is labelled – this is even more important now to make sure that children do not take home other children's uniform. Children need to wear trainers to school so that there is no need to change for any PE or outdoor activity.

If the weather is warm, children may come in the school PE kit ie red shorts and a tee-shirt and trainers. Please note as it is the summer term children will need sun hat and sun cream.

Children do not need to bring book bags or any other bags so that we limit the amount of equipment being brought into school and we will not be sending reading books home in the first instance.

Fruit

Morning fruit snack should be bought in using a plastic bag which will be disposed of after use. Do not send fruit in a tub.

Items from Home

The only item a child will need to bring to school is their individual water bottle which will remain on their table during the course of the day for them to drink from. Please make sure this is labelled with your child's name. Your child can bring sun cream, again in a separate bag clearly labelled, this can preferably be left at school.

Lunchtimes

All Year 6 children will need to bring in their own packed lunch as due to social distancing the canteen cannot accommodate the large number we have at Launde. The children need to bring lunch in their lunchbox which will be kept on their individual table and eaten in the classroom. The classroom will then be cleaned whilst the children play outside in their group of 15.

Cleaning

All equipment, tables and chairs will be washed using antibacterial sprays and disinfection each evening with a deeper clean on a Wednesday of the classrooms and wider area alongside the normal daily clean.

Playtimes

Children from each group of 15 will have a designated area to play in and will not mix with other Year 6 children. We are lucky to have such large grounds and therefore able to split playing areas.

Learning

The children in Year 6 will work with their class teacher in both groups and undertake exciting work both indoor and outdoor. As the children are only in part time the teachers will still provide online learning for the remainder of the week.

Travelling to School

We would ask parents to walk to school as far as practically possible so that we do not cause any traffic congestion and comply with social distancing outside the school premises. If you need to drive could you please park as far away as possible and walk the remaining distance to school.

Other information for Year 6

We know children often want to have autograph books and tee-shirts signed as part of leaving Launde. Unfortunately, they will not be allowed to undertake any of those activities. In fact, children will remain with their class teacher and teaching assistant for the whole time and not allowed to mix with other staff or children. This may feel harsh but we have to do everything we can to ensure your children remain safe. Staff are planning activities for the children and the leavers book, which you have already been informed about, has been created as a memento.

Many of the Year 6 children walk home on their own, we kindly ask you to remind your child about the need for social distancing on the way to and from school and not to hang around with their friends on the way home.

Illnesses

If your child has a temperature or cough then please telephone the office absence line as usual. Should any of you, as adults, have come into contact with potential infections then please do not come to the school and follow the self-isolation rules for you and your family. Please note that children aged 5 and above and their families can now be tested if you suspect it is Covid19.

We will be filming the classrooms next week so you can see how they will look like for the children. We will write to you again at the beginning of next week prior to school opening for your children with any additional information which we feel is important for you to be aware of. However, if you have any questions please email the office and we will respond to them in the next letter.

As you can see we have put many measures in the school to help with a smooth and careful transition back to school and these will all be subject to review as we get the children settled back into classrooms.

Please let us know by replying to the text we will send, if your child is attending so we can ensure we know who should be at school. This is particularly important as we know many Year 6 children walk to school independently.

Yours sincerely

Inderjit Sandhu & Kathryn Priddey