

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many thanks for the ongoing messages of support, it means a great deal to us. We also appreciate the effort that goes into parenting at this challenging time. As you know, the Government has asked schools to begin welcoming back some children (Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six) from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. We are clear that we will only do this if we are sure that the children, staff and families are as safe as possible.

In order to do this, we have:

- Read and taken account of the Department for Education guidance and advice from Devon County Council
- Asked parents (via the questionnaire) what their intentions are
- Used a comprehensive checklist to complete Risk Assessments that cover a whole range of areas of school life
- Reviewed our site
- Consulted staff and colleagues in other schools

All schools have different challenges when it comes to re-opening to more children. Our particular challenge, as an Infant and Nursery School is that three of our four year groups were included in the list from the Government and that we have a limited number of staff available. Additional guidance for Infant and Nursery Schools states that after Key Worker and Vulnerable children, the priority should be given to Nursery and Reception pupils.

Therefore we have taken the decision to open in the following order:

1. Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils will continue to be given a place in the weeks to come from the 1<sup>st</sup> June
2. Reception Pupils will begin to be offered places from the 4<sup>th</sup> June onwards.
3. Nursery Pupils will be contacted over the next two weeks and will begin to be offered part-time places from the 9<sup>th</sup> June onwards.
4. Year One Pupils will not, at the current time, be offered a place. They will however, along with Year Two Pupils, continue to be offered online learning opportunities

I realise that this arrangement will not suit every family. I am particularly sorry not to be able to see the Year Two children back in school at this time. I am hopeful that you will understand our decision when you consider that each group of 15 children requires at least two adults in order to make the learning environment as safe as possible under these circumstances. Although lucky to have a large site, we do not have the staff to increase our offer further.

After the break, teachers will continue to support online learning but this will look a little different in terms of content and teacher response. This is because they will also be working in school each day with the Nursery and Reception children.

School will be closed next week. Teachers will not be replying to messages in the support inboxes but if you need to get in contact, please contact us on: [infant.admin@ladysmithfederation.net](mailto:infant.admin@ladysmithfederation.net) and we will do our best to respond.

Kind Regards,

Emma