

18th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well.

Provision for the rest of this academic year

In the 2 ½ weeks since we welcomed back more of our pupils there have been some changes in the laws that were put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. Certain restrictions have been modified, particularly with the opening of more non-essential businesses. There are also discussions about reducing the space between people in respect to social distancing. I am sure that this is the reason we are having an influx of parental requests for pupils to have some time in school before the summer holidays. Planning to welcome more pupils within our setting is complex. We take into consideration the following. Pupils are placed with familiar adults, all classes have a safe level of support, the needs of the pupils are able to be met, as well as taking into consideration other pupils' in the class. This is in order to ensure both pupils and staff in our school are safe. We have to be compliant from a health and safety as well as COVID-19 point of view. Current Government guidance about increasing pupil numbers in school is to do so as a planned phased return in line with our risk assessments.

For this reason, we will be looking to offer more places from the week beginning 29th June. Once we know how many more pupils we will be expecting, we will be allocating days. This may mean a reduction in days for some pupils that are already in the setting. Rest assured this will not impact on our Key Worker families.

Therefore, if you wish your child to return to school for some time within the last 3 weeks of term, you will need to contact the office to put in your request. Please email office@kingfisher.oxon.sch.uk by 5pm on Monday 22nd June so that we have adequate time to plan. After this date we will not be taking any more pupils back into school this academic year.

Pupils with shielding letters

I am aware that some pupils have shielding letters which are not due to finish until 30th June. If this is the case, you can still request a place on the understanding that we will plan a place for them however, if your child is recommended to shield past this date, the place would be withdrawn. For those pupils who have been shielding, we will be contacting Jane Ann and Sarah, our school nurses, to provide confirmation that they agree that a return is safe.

Free School Meals

The government has also announced this week that they will continue to support families in respect of Free School Meal vouchers throughout the summer holidays. I am aware that for some of you your financial circumstances may have changed. If you believe you are now entitled to Free School Meals you can apply using the online form sent separately by the office, which you should receive by Friday. If your child is in Year 2 or below, they automatically get a Free Meal whilst in school, however if you have not previously made a claim for Free School Meals, you will not have received the voucher. If you are in receipt of certain benefits you will then receive the vouchers however you must make a claim for FSM. More information can be found here. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/oxfordshire>. If you need any support in filling out these forms, you may contact Liz, our Family Advocate family.advocate@kingfisher.oxon.sch.uk or call the office and Liz will give you a call.

Next Academic Year

It is usual that at this time of the year we would be arranging our final Parents Consultation Day, when we also tell you our plans for classes for next year. The date set for the consultation is 8th July and that is the date we will continue to work towards. Even though we are not 100% sure about what restrictions will be in place for September, we will be completing our plans in our normal way with class teachers and TAs in place. We will respond to any changes and updates to the law and guidance around COVID19 and adapt our plans as necessary to conform to guidelines and legislation around social distancing and class sizes. I am sorry that I cannot give you a firm commitment about when our school will return to 'normal', with all our pupils and staff in full time.

If you have any questions, please contact the class teacher or TA you have been communicating with in the first instance.

Your faithfully



Lorraine Wilson

Our Kingfisher View

Kingfisher-a place where everyone is valued to develop independence through an enriching curriculum which is worthwhile