



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

On Wednesday Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that schools would not be reopening after half term, a worrying blow for many of us I am sure. As a result of this we have had an influx of parents asking for a place in school. My instinct and wish is to say yes to everyone! I am so aware of the struggles that home-schooling can bring and want to do everything in my power to ease this. Unfortunately, my hands are tied by the government and the need to keep everyone safe. I am only able to offer places to children whose parents fall under the critical worker category and have absolutely no other means of keeping them home, or who are deemed vulnerable. I am therefore taking every call as an individual case and having to be very strict on who is attending and when.

As a result of rising numbers across the school we have had to take the action of putting the children into three classes across the year groups instead of two. Something that has been in place in Year R now for some time. This will undoubtedly impact the feedback parents of children in Years 1 and 2 are used to for home learning. Up to this point we have had a teacher and a learning support assistant free to respond to the children's work and parent's questions live and instantly. We are no longer in a position to promise this as all adults will be teaching children in school. Please do not worry if your child is home learning, the quality of the work and videos being sent home will not change, Zoom calls will still go ahead and the children will still hear from their teachers. It will simply impact the speed at which we respond to the work being sent in, however all work will still be seen and will be valued and responded to in a timely manner. It has worked successfully in Year R.

Although we are moving from two classes to three, this does not mean we suddenly have lots of free spaces across the school. This is happening because we feel the number of children and families our teachers are coming in contact with over the week and the larger than hoped for class sizes are making it unsafe for everyone. We are still in a position of 'running out of space' and I have to prioritise spaces for children who may be vulnerable and need a school place overtime. So please, please only call us for a space if you feel you have no other option as we may have to say no, remember home learning is the safest option.

As a result of more children being on site I urge you not to break the one-way system in and out of school. We also have new doors for the children to enter and leave from, we will be keeping each class bubble separate throughout the day so would ask when dropping off and picking up you arrive on time and do not allow the children to mingle outside of their bubble, stand where you are advised to by a member of staff or the posters around the school. **The school day will remain 8.45am – 3.15am for all children attending**

Year R: Normal class doors

Year 1: Doves - library door (this is the door you used before the lockdown)

Woodpeckers - North door. Please stand on the left of the door

Blackbirds – North door. Please stand to the right of the door

Year 2: Owls – Music Room. Please stand down by the office window, do not mix with the Wagtails parents

Eagles – South door. Please stand to the left of the door

Kestrels – South door. Please stand to the right of the door

Breakfast club will remain in place for those attending, but payment upfront is still mandatory in order to keep this club open. There are still some parents who haven't yet made the agreed payments. The club may not be able to continue after half term if these monies have not been paid. Beehive remains closed.

I apologise for the abruptness of this letter, and any worry it may cause, please remember we are still here for you and can and will help in any way possible if you are struggling.

Thank you again,

Best wishes and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L A de Carteret', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs L A de Carteret

Headteacher