



Jewell Academy
Bournemouth

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Waddington – Principal

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Wider School Reopening Updates

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am sure that you are aware that this week the Secretary of State for Education finally clarified the government's position regarding the full opening of primary schools for a month before the end of term. He has accepted that most schools (particularly primaries) do not have the capacity, in terms of both physical space and teachers, to welcome back all students. He went on to say that if schools do have capacity, then he would like them to accommodate the return of more children before the end of the summer term.

Over the past few weeks, we have been tasked with the complete redesign and reorganisation of our classrooms and other learning spaces in school as well as risk assess every aspect thoroughly to ensure it was safe for a phased return of our Preschool and Years R, 1 and 6.

At present, the structure we have planned for the groups who have already returned to school along with the expanding number of children requiring our key worker provision, I have to be honest with you and say that, unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to take any more children at this time.

We understand that this situation is far from ideal and is frustrating for both yourselves and more importantly, your children. You, and they will have many questions about the future, some of which we cannot answer ourselves at the moment as we continue to follow the ever and rapidly changing advice from the DfE.

We are currently planning for how transition may look this year so every child can "meet" their teacher and new classroom even if it is virtually.

As soon as we have details on these arrangements we will communicate these to you.

As a staff, we all feel concerned for the children who remain at home. We know that lots have been keeping up with their learning on Google Classroom, but this can never replace the experience of physically being at school. The majority of staff are now teaching in front of "bubbles" on a daily basis whilst still maintaining the work on Google Classroom, marking it and making contact with you as often as possible. I commend them for the

efforts they make and how they have adapted to a very different way of teaching and developing learning.

Finally, thank you for your continued support, words of encouragement, gifts and treats that you have sent us. Many of us are parents also, battling the same issues you are in regard to home learning our own children. We completely understand the frustrations you have all felt at times too! Thank you for all you are doing.

As ever, we await the next guidance from the government and as soon as we have planned our response to it, we will share the information with you.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and follow the guidance (even though some restrictions have been lifted) so that we have the best chance of controlling the pandemic and getting the children back to school as quickly and safely as we possibly can.

Kind regards,

Mrs Alex Waddington
Principal