

Our Response to COVID-19

12.11.20

This has been a very difficult time for everyone.

Like all schools, we were very sorry to have to close to most children during the first Government Lockdown.

We ran three Key Worker Pods during Lockdown which meant that we were able to accommodate all requests for places.

As soon as the Government gave permission to reopen we opened to children in the order the Government requested ie Year 1 first, then Reception, Nursery and Year 2.

All children were welcomed back to school in the Summer Term. As we were only allowed to have up to 15 in each Pod, we offered each child 2 days a week. Families were reassured by the measures we had put in place and that we ensured that the children's experience would be as normal as possible. Learning indoors and outside continued and, although soft furnishings have been removed and the children were not allowed to mix outside of the 14 other children in their Pod, the day was very close to the usual day. 75% of children returned to school in the Summer Term.

Learning at Home during COVID-19

We thought long and hard about what form that would take.

We didn't know how long it would be for but were clear that we didn't want to put families under too much pressure and risk the extremely positive attitudes to learning being damaged – through no fault of the families, purely due to the fact that the children, in most cases, could not be their one and only focus.

The learning we offered was in line with our philosophy. Although work sheets were necessary at times, as it was difficult to communicate everything to families without them, they were kept to an absolute minimum. Families told us that the children enjoyed the activities and that they could see how independent their children were in tackling at least some of them.

Many members of staff made videos for the children which you will find on our website under the Provision tab/ Teaching and Learning/ School TV.

In preparation for September we informed families of our plans to open the schools to all children, keeping year groups apart as directed by the Government. Year group bubbles allow us to continue with our active provision. Having learning outside embedded in our provision has been very much in our favour. Our attendance so far this term is 96.5%. This is very high for this time of the year in a Nursery and Infant School.

We are including the information we sent to families for your information.

Liz Kearney