



Tuesday 16th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. It has been a busy start to the final half term of what has been a strange year. As I wrote to the children in one of my daily emails, this half term is usually one of my favourites as it brings special events such as Sports Day, Leavers' Celebrations and the end of year celebrations: it will be a strange end of the year without those milestones.

Wider Reopening

Last week we opened the doors to some of our pupils from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and it was fantastic to have children back in the building: it really is the children that make a building into a school. All of our preparations meant that the wider opening went very smoothly. The children adapted well to the different classroom layouts and routines but all left with a smile on their faces at the end of the day – and extremely clean hands after all the handwashing! If your child is in one of those year groups and would like to return to school this term, please contact the office for more information. If you have indicated that your child will be returning to school, they are expected to attend every day and will make the usual attendance calls if children are absent. I hope to see more children returning to these classes before the end of term.

Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

Following the government's announcement last week, I can confirm that sadly, we will not be able to welcome back any of the pupils from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 this term. Unfortunately, the bubble restrictions mean that we do not have the space or staffing to accommodate any more pupils at this time. The daily home learning will continue to be set until Friday 17th July and class teachers will continue to make weekly phone calls to maintain contact with all pupils. In the meantime, if you are a key worker and need support with childcare, please contact the office: we are open Monday to Friday for key worker care when needed.

Transition

One of the most eagerly anticipated events of the Summer Term for pupils is finding out their new teacher for the next academic year. Since the school closures began, I, along with the Senior Leadership Team and other staff, have been working hard to ensure that when children return to school in September we have robust plans in place to support them, both with their learning and their general wellbeing. Later this week, I will be writing to you to inform you of these plans.

Homelearning

Teachers have been working tirelessly since the school closure to provide learning for your child to access at home in addition to contact families weekly and providing child care for the children of key workers: they did not have a break of any kind until the most recent half term. Because of the nature of the home learning, teachers are unable to 'mark' or provide feedback to children on the individual pieces of learning. Instead, where appropriate, answers are provided to children to mark their own learning – something all

Headteacher
Julie-Ann Swaysland

Telephone:
+44 (0) 1494 783 070

Ivingswood Academy
Greenway
Chesham
Buckinghamshire
HP5 2BY

Email:
Office@ivingswoodacademy.org

Website:
www.ivingswoodacademy.org



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Company Registration No: 07697482

children do regularly in school. If you have any questions or concerns about the learning, please speak to your child's teacher during the weekly calls or contact them via the school office. Whilst I appreciate that this may be frustrating for children or for parents, I would ask that you are respectful of the incredible job that they have done over the past three months under exceptional circumstances. If there is a piece of learning that your child would like to share with their teacher, photos can be emailed to the school office.

Social Distancing

As the Government move us out of lockdown into a new normal, I would like to remind you of the social distancing rules that are currently in place. It is vital for the safety and health of our community that we all follow these rules, however much we may be missing our family and friends.

- A 2 metre distance should be observed when meeting up with friends and family that do not live in your house.
- Households with only one adult may now form a social bubble with another family and act as one household: the 2-metre rule does not need to be observed and people within the bubble may stay at each other's homes. You may only form a social bubble with one other family, not multiple groups.
- Anyone showing symptoms of COVID 19 should arrange to be tested. If you test positive, you must self-isolate for 7 days and family members should self-isolate for 14 days. You should also contact the Track and Trace phone line so that anyone you have had contact with can also be tested.

We reserve the right to refuse admission to any pupil who may wish to come to school if it is seen that the lockdown rules are not being followed. This is to ensure the safety of staff and pupils within school.

Free School Meal Vouchers

At present, the Government will be stopping the voucher scheme at the end of this term. Families receiving vouchers will be sent the final voucher on Monday July 20th. If your family income has decreased as a result of COVID 19, please contact Mrs Seal in the school office to see if you qualify for the vouchers. She needs your full name, date of birth and National Insurance Number to check: no other details are needed or are shared with us.

Breakfast

This week sees another delivery of cereal, bagels and baked beans from the Magic Breakfast Club. All parents are welcome to come to school between 9am and 3pm, Tuesday to Thursday each week to collect food.

Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and your family during this time. I look forward to a time when we can welcome you all back into school.

Yours sincerely,

Julie-Ann Swaysland
Headteacher