**Heathfield Primary and Nursery School**

Scotland Road and Kersall Drive Campuses

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr G.A. Fullwood B.Ed.(Hons)

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30 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well, and managing to remain positive?

I am delighted to inform you that the first week in which school opened to our Y6 pupils was very successful.

Following a review of all procedures and risk assessments, we then invited Y1 pupils into school from Thursday 25th June and F2 pupils began yesterday, Monday 29th June. Staff, parents/carers and pupils have been fully supportive of the wide range of measures put in place and all guidelines have been diligently followed. Thank you.

It has been so good to see a wider number of pupils. They have all clearly been very happy to return to school and they all deserve great credit for the quality of their behaviour and attitudes to learning. My staff have been so pleased to see the children and return to some degree of normality.

We will be saying farewell to our Y6 pupils this Friday 3 July and then welcome Y5 pupils back to Heathfield for the final 3 weeks of the Summer Term. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our Year 6 pupils this year. They have exceeded all expectations as a cohort, showing great maturity and commitment to their learning whilst offering great role models to our younger children. I am sad that their swan song at Heathfield has been during this pandemic which has resulted in us not being able to fully celebrate their years at Heathfield quite in the manner that they deserve. I wish them all the very best for the next stage of their learning journey.

Our Rainbow Club now being offered at both campuses has enabled us to better manage the numbers of children of key workers and those considered to be vulnerable. The children attending these groups have continued to embrace school and the wide range of activities on offer.

We would love to be able to somehow get to see pupils from all year groups prior to the end of the Summer Term. However, **it is clear that we will not have enough classroom spaces to** **make this happen** due to the maximum numbers of children currently being 15 in a classroom, and 10 in the Early Years. **I am very sorry that we have not managed to make any offer to our F1 (Nursery), Y2, Y3 and Y4 pupils.** I sincerely hope that the new academic year can return to business as usual for schools but we will as ever wait for government guidance and updates as well as any local fluctuations to the ‘R’ rating of COVID-19.

We will continue to offer home learning packs for all age-ranges and hope that you have been able to set some routines in order to support your child with their learning? My staff have put in a lot of effort to reach out and engage all learners, including making regular contact by telephone.

We plan to offer all our transition activities during the first few weeks back after the summer break as opposed to custom and practice which has been to carry these out in the last couple of weeks of the school year.

However, my staff will be in touch with you following receipt of your child’s annual reports. These will go out to you on Monday 13th July along with information about your child’s new class and teacher. You will then be invited to a virtual meeting using Zoom to meet your child’s teacher for the new school year.

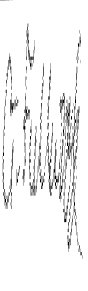
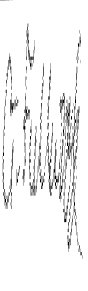
Please be aware that we have reviewed the organisation of school for the new academic year. With effect from September 2020, we will be returning to mixed year group classes. Therefore, there will be 7 Y1/Y2 classes in Key Stage 1, 7 Y3/Y4 classes in Lower Key Stage 2, and 5 Y5/6 classes in Upper Key Stage 2 plus one single Y5 class for a year only. Heathfield historically had mixed year group classes but had to change to manage the Kersall Drive expansion. As Kersall Drive is now almost full, we feel now is a good time to return to our original structure; this also offers additional transition support for almost half of the pupils by remaining where they currently are.

Please note, **school will be shut to all children after Thursday 23 July** and will not reopen until September for the start of the new academic year. This final week will offer F2, Y1 and Y5 pupils a Monday to Thursday week.

Finally, after 10 years of delivering quality first teaching ensuring all pupils attain their potential, Carly Allen is sadly leaving for family reasons. Also, after over 30 years of service as a Teaching Assistant, Kathy Sims is retiring from Heathfield. Kathy has consistently contributed to the positive nurturing ethos for so many pupils over the years as they have begun their learning journey at Heathfield. Carly and Kathy will be sadly missed but we wish them all the very best.

I apologise that all plans for the next academic year carry a degree of uncertainty but I really appreciate your support, consideration and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely



Gary Fullwood

Executive Head Teacher