



Lydgate Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the first of a number of letters about school provision from **2nd June**.

We have a great deal of preparation and staff training to do in advance of welcoming back 132 pupils after the Half Term Holiday and we need to use the day before for that purpose. We also want to get started as soon as it is safe to do so, so we are not waiting a whole week.

We know many parents and children will be disappointed that we cannot reopen fully any quicker – we had more demand for places for children of critical workers than we could accommodate, so I know it will be frustrating for a great many children in Year 6.

In school we will be organised in three closed groups or ‘social bubbles’ within each year group. Each group will be taught by one of the regular teachers from that year group, and most children will have their normal teachers. We hope scientific evidence, our organisational capacity and government guidance will allow a greater opening soon so that we can welcome back all our pupils.

I am confident that we will be able to strengthen the home learning support we have been offering, so that it marries well with what we are teaching in school each week. The changes will be, we expect, sustainable so that we can help better still to support remote learning’ for your child.

We will want to keep going with the many ways we have been communicating with children who are not in school – some of the reports we have received so far have shown children at home engaging in many of the activities we have suggested, and really enjoying themselves at the same time. Staff will produce weekly packs of ideas, with as little as possible requiring print outs. We have emailed these to almost all families and have supported one or two families who needed paper copies. Our Blog pages are getting more visitors than ever (over 4,000 visits in the last four weeks). Staff are replying as quickly as possible to queries and requests. We will keep doing this to help you and your family. Additionally we are now able to promise that a member of the year group teaching staff, either your child’s class teacher or the Year Leader, will be in touch each week, starting in our first week back.

Looking ahead much further we are planning for next academic year with a positive approach and an assumption that we will all be together by then. We are putting together the best transition programme we can while remaining at social distance length apart. The pastoral team have started on booklets, we are trialling virtual tour recording and we will find ways to fully support children who may find it difficult. Likewise planning is taking place to aid the moves into school, for a new cohort in Year 3 in September 2020, and away from Year 6 at the end of the term. It will not go unmarked and plans are coming together.

Please, if you have any questions we will respond fully and honestly as quickly as we can. Some questions and answers will shortly be posted be on an FAQ page on our school website, but you know how to come and ask!



We are a Rights Respecting School that delivers an engaging and exciting education for all.

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We'll see you soon and we will keep in touch continually.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Jones', with a small dot at the end.

Mr S Jones

Headteacher