



Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery

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26th June 2020

Dear Families

Mid-term update.

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have been enjoying the wonderful summer sunshine that we have had.

What is the situation in school now?

At present we have 8 pods open in school with an additional 9th pod opening imminently. We have followed the government guidance for Infant Schools and have welcomed back our Nursery children and Year R children. Our pods are supporting these year groups as well as the children of key workers and vulnerable families.

Last week I sent out a questionnaire to all families with children in Key stage 1 to ascertain how many parents may want to send their child back to school for a few sessions before the end of term. Unfortunately, due to the increased number of key worker children returning to school, there is no-longer the space to accommodate additional year groups. Similarly, the places that were available in the Year R pods have been filled this week and there are no-longer spaces for any additional children to join on the 6th July. I know that this will be disappointing to many parents and children, but I must follow the guidance from the government and the Local Authority to ensure the safety of the whole school community.

If you are identified as key worker / vulnerable family, using the government descriptors and you would like your child to return to school, you can call the school office and request a place. Places are now very limited and once all our pods are full, we will not be able to take any more children. The office staff will ask you to clarify your job role and ask for proof, to ensure that you meet the key worker criteria; we will note that you would like a school place and we will let you know the details for your child's return. There will be no midweek additions to the established 'pods' under any circumstances. Registration for starting school the following week will open on a Monday every week and will close on Thursday at 12pm. Only children registered by the previous Thursday will be considered for entry the following week. Last admissions to keyworker pods will be Monday 13th July.

When will there be information about returning to school in September?

Schools have been told that they will receive information and guidance from the Education Secretary next week regarding a return to school in September. Until schools have received this guidance it is difficult to say when we will be able to share information about schooling in September. However, please be assured that as soon as I have guidance to act upon I will be working with the staff team and the school governors to plan for the children's return, which will be shared with you as soon as possible.

Thank you all for your support with the actions that are being taken to keep our school community safe. Please continue to check the website, your emails and our twitter account regularly for updates and take care of each other.

Kind regards

Mrs Helen Day Acting Head teacher