

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and that your family is adjusting to the new challenges of isolation and social distancing. I am aware that lockdown has been a real challenge for many of us, balancing work and family in some pretty extraordinary circumstances. With the relaxing of some of the restrictions placed upon us by the government, there almost feels like life may become more normal before too long. Although school is still operating for the children of key workers, as you know, the decision was made last weekend to delay the further opening to other year groups. Along with this, the government has now acknowledged that with social distancing remaining a feature of new rules, the possibility of welcoming all children back to school in July now seems unlikely.

With this in mind, I felt it timely to let you know that we are not only planning for those children returning during this academic year, but are also thinking of what the new school year may look like in September. We really do not know or could even predict where the pandemic will be up to or what government guidance will look like this far in advance. Therefore, I felt it may be reassuring to have an idea of what we hope classes and staffing might look like when we return in a restriction free school.

As you know, Mr Hover is moving on to his new post as Headteacher at Chester Blue Coat CE Primary School in September and I will be working as Acting Headteacher for the Autumn term. There will be an application process during the term to appoint a permanent Headteacher to be in post from January.

With many children having not visited school since March, we are very aware of how difficult the return to school may well be for lots of children. Our intention therefore is to try to keep things as familiar as possible. We therefore intend to keep all class groups the same as they are in the current academic year, but will move classrooms and teacher as expected.

Class	Year groups	Number of children	Teacher
Kestrel	New Reception Children	17	Mrs Cuthbert and Mrs Bacchus
Sparrowhawk	Y1	25	Miss Carter
Owl	Y2 & 3	27	Miss Fray and Mrs Howe
Peregrine	Y3 & 4	33	Miss Davison
Buzzard	Y5 & 6	34	Mr Morris

The current Sparrowhawk and Owl Classes will remain grouped as they have been for this academic year but will move to their new class bases. All of the year 5 and 6 children will be together in Buzzard class.

Mr Morris will be working in Buzzard class full time. Miss Fray and Mrs Howe will split the week as class teachers in Owl Class. Mrs Bacchus continues in her role as SENDCO and is available through the school admin email address should you have any queries or concerns about your child's transition back into school. Teaching assistants will be used to support children across the school and as you will appreciate this is yet to be finalised.

I hope that this information is clear and that it gives a degree of certainty in what seem very uncertain times. We cannot wait to welcome all children back to school, to flourish and learn together as we have done in the past. I must stress that all of these plans may well change depending on the situation nationally and locally with regard to the virus and that any decisions that have to be taken will always be made with the safety and well-being of our whole community at the heart.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gilbert