



Essex County Council
St Michael's C of E Primary School

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Thursday, 11 June 2020

Dear Parents,

Following the Government's announcement this week that they were dropping their plans to have all children back in school before the Summer holidays, I have been working on my own plans to offer all children some form of face-to-face contact with their class teachers between now and the end of the year. The purpose of this would be to offer some form of closure for the children on what has been the most unexpected year.

Due to the current restrictions on gatherings, to begin with, I have asked all of the teachers to organise a series of short Zoom meetings with up to half of their classes at a time over the next few weeks. They are currently looking at what times would work for them, which is particularly difficult for the staff who are in teaching different groups at the moment but once they have firmer plans, they will be communicating with you to invite your children to take part. In the meantime, if you have not used Zoom, maybe use the next few weeks to learn a new skill.

Once we reach July, which will hopefully see the country in a better situation with this virus (lower infection rates and more public confidence), then I will be inviting classes in to meet with their teachers for a short, socially-distanced chat on Playground 3. These will be sit-down events lasting just 30 or so minutes, but I know that the teachers, and I would hope the children, would love to have this opportunity. In order to facilitate this, we would have to ask for you to respect the guidelines we have in place which we will communicate with you nearer the time.

Finally, once the children have had a chance to say 'goodbye' to their previous teacher, the new teacher will make contact, again via Zoom and begin, over a few calls, to introduce themselves and get to know the children. These again will be group calls and there may be a focus given in one chat for children to work towards something before the next.

I recognise that for all of us, these past few months and indeed the next few weeks are nothing like we could have ever have imagined or prepared for. Throughout this whole period, I have done all I can to ensure that we offer our children the best that we can to keep them healthy in both mind and body, enjoying and engaging in the work as much as possible, maintaining motivation to complete tasks and ultimately feel like they are still part of the school. I have already begun to sketch out plans with staff for what September may look like if we are unable to return in full but I live in the hope that this is not the case and that we can all come back together.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cumpstey

Head teacher: Mr A. Cumpstey
Assistant Head: Mrs K Farran