



Lisle Marsden Church of England Primary Academy

Lansdowne Avenue
Grimsby, DN32 0DF

Telephone: (01472) 311040

Fax: (01472) 590390

E-Mail: office@lma.nelcmail.co.uk

Web site: www.lisle.ne-lincs.sch.uk

Company Registration Number: 07808707
Headteacher: Mr D Kinsey

Information for all Parents and Carers

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You will, I am sure, have read or seen the recent government announcement last week that the government have now abandoned their original ambition for all primary aged children to return to school in July. The government have instead stated that some schools, where it is safe to do so, may have the capacity and therefore could be in a position to offer some educational provision to children in Year 2-5. Here at Lisle Marsden we are strictly following the necessary health and safety guidelines demanded by government, staff and parents; and whilst these essential small group socially distanced teaching arrangements continue, I have to regretfully inform you that it is sadly impossible for us to welcome back any more children at this stage.

Currently, we are only able to accommodate the Year groups prioritised by the government (EYFS, Y1 and Y6) together with the children of those identified as critical workers. All available learning spaces in the academy have been allocated to safely manage these groups of children, with around 200 children attending each day. Many children are now working in new groups with staff that are new to them, and almost all staff are now working in school each day to facilitate and manage these new working arrangements. Space in school is therefore at a significant premium, consequently we recently wrote to the parents of all critical workers to ask for support in only utilising a place in Key Worker provision if absolutely essential, as we have now reached our physical capacity to provide places as the demand for childcare has risen since lockdown arrangements have begun to be more relaxed.

Thankfully, these are temporary teaching arrangements and should be viewed as such, it is our sincere hope that we will be able to welcome back all pupils in all year groups together with our new EYFS starters in September. We are hopeful that this will be a fulltime offer for all, however we may well need to consider alternative arrangements. At this point it would be unhelpful for us to speculate on what such arrangements might look like but you can be assured that we will do all we can to ensure the best possible return to school for everyone. As we continue in this final term of this academic year, I will endeavour to continue to keep you up-to-date with how we plan to re-open the academy to all year groups, this will of

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course be dependent on the government's position on education and social distancing guidelines as we move forwards towards the end of the summer term.

With so many more staff now working fulltime in school each day – planning, preparing and teaching the children in the government prioritised year groups, it sadly means that many teaching and classroom support staff simply do not have the ability to be available to parents and children to support remote home learning in the way we have been. To continue to support you with remote learning at home (DoJo tasks and portfolio, Oak Academy, Bite Size and home learning packs) we have created a new class buddy system whereby available staff not physically teaching that day will provide support to you and your child at home. These staff are also managing remote learning for their own classes and will do their best to support you and be available to you when they can. By now they will have introduced themselves to you via DoJo and are committed to doing all they can to help you while you do your best to work with your children at home. If parents are struggling with home learning or would like an additional home learning pack, please contact us.

As you will all be aware, you were recently provided with your child's annual report and your child's class teacher contacted you to provide a 'telephone' parent's evening call. We've tried hard to maintain as many normal functions of the school as possible in the last few months whilst staff have been dealing with the challenges of the virus on both a personal and professional level. Here at school, we have been very appreciative of the kind comments and messages of support we have received from many of you; as we have adapted our practices to continue to operate as an educational institution that has been open every day throughout this crisis. As Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of our staff team at Lisle who are committed to do the best they can for all our children.

We are now in the process of planning ahead to September, with our focus being on a hopeful fulltime return for everyone. Pupil wellbeing and continuity in learning will be big factor in these plans as we consider what a 'recovery' curriculum will entail for all pupils; those currently attending school and those who are not. We also wait to learn about what additional support maybe provided by government to help children to 'catch up', what this will consist of and how it will be delivered. Looking ahead, we will shortly be providing you with information regarding classes and teachers for September, positively assuming we will be operating as much as normal as is possible. Following this, we will provide you with further information concerning remote transition arrangements to support your child as they move forwards with us.

If at any time you have any questions or queries, please get in touch. Our team will do all they can to answer your questions and continue to support you.

Yours Sincerely

D Kinsey

Headteacher