

 **Ripponden Junior and Infant School**

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 ***Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lucy Taylor***

***“Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all”***

**Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth**

3rd July 2020

Dear parents/carers,

 Well, here we are, as we are racing towards the summer, although looking at the drizzly, grey weather you would never think it!

We are delighted that the secretary of state has announced that all children will be able to come back to school from September. As I am sure you can imagine, the guidance that has been released is very comprehensive and so I am just making sure I have covered everything before I send plans out. As soon as these detailed plans have been finalised, I will send them out to you.

We envisage that the set-up we have currently for key workers and children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will continue. This has included staggered start times, break times and pick up times. The children will need to remain with the children in their year group ‘bubbles’ and not mix with others, even at playtimes and lunchtimes. This has been working really well in school with limited numbers of children, so we are hoping this model will be able to be used when we have the whole school back.

We will be reopening Busy Bees from September, in line with the guidance. The hours for this is 7.30am until 6pm. Please email the office to let us know if you will be needing places from September. The handbook and requirements forms are included with this letter. **Please complete the requirements form and send it back, even if you have already expressed an interest.**

**Unfortunately, we are now full in Busy Bees for over the summer. We very quickly filled up to the capacity we are allowed due to having to adhere to strict social distancing measures. We hate to turn anyone away. If you would like to go on a waiting list, please get in touch.**

In these final couple of weeks, lots of the lovely activities that we usually have planned are not happening and that makes us really sad. We usually have our Musical Soiree, Leavers’ Productions, sports days, assemblies, trips etc but the circumstances have stopped that this year. We are delighted to have some classes back, but we want to tell the rest of our children that we really miss them and hope to see them really soon.

Mrs Hutchinson launched the very first virtual Ripponden’s Got Talent and the deadline was last Friday. Just to tease us, she has created a ‘Sneak Peak’, which went onto the Facebook Page this afternoon and I will attempt to add it to this email (although it is rather large!) What an amazingly talented bunch of children we

have – with such varied skills. You will have to wait until next Friday for the full thing! Our children really do blow me away with their confidence and resilience, especially in these difficult times. I am really proud of them and I know you will be too.

We are just finalising reports, which will go out before the end of term. These reports are vastly different to previous years, understandably so. There is no attendance data on there, as we officially locked down in March and in terms of assessment data, we have made predictions as to where the children were heading, as all statutory assessment did not happen.

I understand parents (and some children) will have some anxiety about children returning to school and either ‘being behind’ or needing to ‘catch up’. However, please don’t worry. Throughout this whole pandemic our message has been clear; keep your children the wonderfully happy and bubbly young people they are and when we are back together, we can concentrate on the academic then. It is much easier to teach a happy child than an anxious one and our teachers are incredibly skilled and will, I am sure work their magic with the children as soon as we are all back together.

I will send out plans as soon as I can and I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend.

With many thanks for your continued support,

Lorraine Bamforth

Headteacher