



KILLINGHALL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Helping children to make the next step on their learning journey.'



OTLEY ROAD
KILLINGHALL
HARROGATE
NORTH YORKSHIRE
HG3 2DW

Headteacher: Mrs. Sarah Bassitt

admin@killinghall.n-yorks.sch.uk

☎: 01423 506307

Fax: 01423 506307

www.killinghall.n-yorks.sch.uk

5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

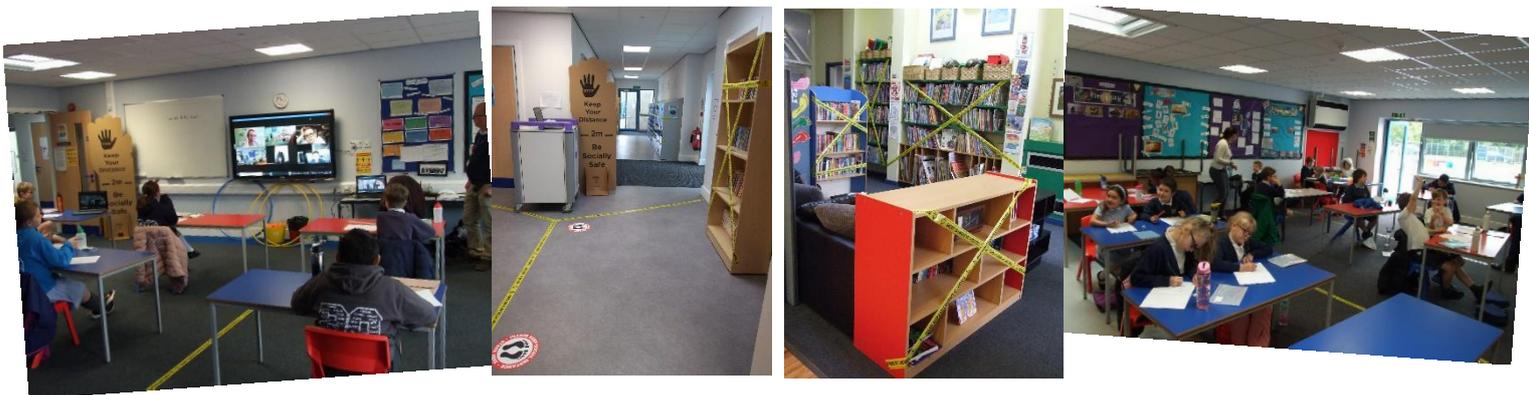
As we begin to open school to more children I thought I would give you a general update on the life of the school.

We have remained open for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children throughout lockdown. The staff and children in school have been amazing and shown resilience beyond belief. A real credit to our school.

Wider Opening of School

As the Headteacher, I have an overall responsibility for the children, staff and our whole school community. This means that ultimately I am responsible for the health, safety and well-being of potentially hundreds of people, including you. In opening our school, I have at every step of decision making ensured that action planning has taken in to account the best interests for our children, their families and the staff. Given the realms of conflicting information I have received, along with very mixed Government and scientific evidence these have not been easy decisions to make. The plan that we are implementing as our first phase of opening is one that we hope will be manageable and more importantly as safe as possible.

Yesterday we welcomed back some of our year 6 children, working as two bubble groups while they are in class. Initially I think they were a little shell shocked at the way the school looks but quickly fitted in to the very stringent new rules and procedures. The school is a very different place to the one that we 'closed' on 20th March; we have had to change so much to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. Bookcases are taped up, toys put away and corridors marked with tape. Family groups can be seated together but as you will see in the photos everyone else is socially distanced even within their 'bubbles'.



We will welcome some year 1 children into school on Monday and then Unicorns on Thursday. If your child is one of those confirmed as starting please send them in uniform with just their water bottle and a coat. We can accept no further children as part of phase 1 of opening now. We will review this again in two to three weeks.

Staff will continue to upload work for all children on to the website to support their home learning. Zoom sessions and the emailing system will also continue. I will also continue to give children challenges every couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone who sent their last photos before lockdown, some of these will be used in the end of year magazine.



Although I may have many skills and talents, but unfortunately I do not have a crystal ball that enables me to see in to the future. The reason I say this is that I have already been asked about what phase 2 of wider opening of schools will look like, and what school will be like in September in terms of social distancing. I wish I knew the answers but I don't. We do not have any information from the DfE before it is announced to the public. We will, as we always have, inform parents of updates as soon as we have them.

Staffing and Expansion Updates

I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Almack has returned to school following her maternity leave. She will return as a part-time teacher. At the moment she will be in supporting the keyworker children in school and also working alongside Mr Butler to add work to the website for the Year 3/4 group.

The 'build' has now started for the final part of the expansion of the school. This will give us another new classroom and a KS2 library. Due to the delay in starting due to Covid 19, we hope that this will be completed in mid-October for next year's year 6 to move into. This will mean that from September we will be a single year group entry school.



I can also give you some of the details for the staffing for September as follows:

- Reception – Unicorns: Miss Connor
- Year 1- Dragons: Miss Daley
- Year 2 – Giants: Miss Daniel
- Year 3 – Pegasus: Miss Galton and Mrs Almack (Job share)
- Year 4 – Centaurs: Mr Butler
- Year 5 – Griffins: Mr Thackray
- Year 6 – Phoenix: Mrs Foster

We have also created a new leadership structure in school due to our expansion as a single form entry school. We went through a rigorous application and interview process to ensure that our structure was effective in terms of future thinking for the school.

From September the senior leadership team will be:

- Mrs Bassitt: Headteacher
- Mrs Foster: Assistant Headteacher & KS2 Leader.
- Miss Daniel: Curriculum Leader
- Miss Connor: EYFS and KS1 Leader.

Mr Butler will continue to play an important part in school as the Yr 3-4 Link teacher. Other staff will have subject leadership responsibilities as they always have.

Finally

I am exceptionally proud to be Headteacher of our wonderful school, despite the tough times that we all find ourselves in it has been a privilege to see everyone working so hard for the good of all. I would like to again thank the staff who have worked tirelessly to support children in school and via online/home learning, and who have now accepted the potential health risks to support the wider opening of school. We do this because we believe we are making a difference to those keyworkers who need our support, and to the children across our whole school. I am also proud and grateful for the support and spirit that has emerged from parents at this difficult time. Our children, as I have always said, are a credit to us all.

What if 2020 isn't cancelled?
What if 2020 is the year we've been waiting for?
A year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary, so raw —
that it finally *forces* us to grow.
A year that screams so loud, finally awakening us
from our ignorant slumber.
A year we finally accept the need for change.
Declare change. Work for change. Become the change.
A year we finally band together, instead of
pushing each other further apart.

We don't know when we will all be back together again, or what will be the new normal, but I do know that we will come back even stronger than before.

Take care

