



## Homefield Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Yesterday, we opened for three more year groups Years Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Our meticulous planning and staggered timings worked well and happily there were no issues. We have missed our pupils and enjoyed seeing those who returned.

However despite our smooth return, we must get you all to understand that the school has exceptionally limited space and staff to accommodate more requests from parents for more pupils to return in these year groups. This is for several reasons:

1. All available staff are already currently in school manning bubbles. For safety and well-being staff are in pairs. We have no more staff to man new bubbles.
2. Due to the 2 metre social-distancing ruling our already small classrooms are limited to single figure numbers. Once they are full; they are full. There is no way we would be able to accommodate the Government's proposed fifteen pupils per bubble.
3. We will not be able to accommodate any further year groups before September (Nursery, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5) and if the 2 metre ruling is still in effect by then, it still would not be possible.
4. If Key Worker numbers increase further, we may not even be able to continue accommodating one of the recently formed year group bubbles (Year 6, Year 1 and Reception) and as a result would have to ask them not to come in anymore. We are considering not accepting any further Key Worker pupils.

The Government has made it clear that schools are not to increase numbers should this increase incur further costs, mean increasing staffing or where the school has a lack of space. All three of these define Homefield at the moment. The Government in its infinite wisdom have also stated that empty space in local High Schools can be used for pupils to be accommodated, but we would be unable to send any staff along with these pupils and again have no guidance on what this would look like.

Whilst we understand and sympathise that home learning may be challenging and you, as parents, have concerns that the lack of routine schooling may be having a detrimental effect on your child's education, we cannot disregard the safety of all pupils and staff. Similarly, we also appreciate that you may wish to return to work or that your child misses their friends, but again, we are not willing to disregard the safety of our pupils and staff for those reasons. Pupils are not going to be with their normal teachers, they are not in their normal classrooms and they certainly do not have their normal school routine nor friendship groups. The work you are doing at home, is what they are doing at school. There is no advantage to being in school. Sadly, it is also extremely unhelpful for our safety planning and logistical management that some parents are now changing their minds after we conducted a parental survey asking whether or not they would be sending their child back to school. We are fully aware that things change, but we repeat, when our bubbles are full; they are full.

Every parent nationwide is in the same situation and we want you to know that you are doing the best job you can for your children. It may seem little consolation, but we are very proud of you all for supporting us and supporting your children during this pandemic, but we need you to understand the difficulties the school faces.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. B. Young  
Headteacher

Mr. J. Earle  
Chair of Governors

