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JC/jfh

20th July 2020

Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe that we have now reached the end of term. It has undeniably been a year unlike any other, and each of you will have your own unique stories to tell about the challenges you have faced since late March. As I reflect upon the recent months, I am so proud of our wonderful Stamshaw Community; our parents, staff and of course, our amazing children. You have all been fantastic and the 'silver lining' in this pandemic is most certainly the warmth and support we have all given each other in these difficult times. Undoubtedly, there will be those amongst us who have suffered our own personal losses and challenges and we have a way to go before things can return to 'normal' but one thing I know, is that we have the most wonderful community ever and we will continue to support each other through the weeks and months ahead.

Farewell Year 2....

We were so excited to reopen our doors to more pupils on June 1st, but sadly the Government was unable to include Year 2 in the target groups for return. I am so sorry that we have not been able to say our usual farewells to our lovely Puffin, Penguin and Peacock classes but I wish you all the very best in your future Junior Schools. We will be posting a little '**memory montage**' for Year 2 on our website tomorrow and we hope you enjoy seeing how your children have grown and matured, remembering their special memories of their days at Stamshaw. Thank you for being such a brilliant year group and for bringing so much joy to our school.

Goodbye to colleagues....

I would also like to use this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to two of our lovely team, whom many of you will know well. At the end of this term, Mrs Southall will be leaving to take up a Leadership post in a school in Hampshire. Mrs Southall has been a wonderful teacher, working in all year groups and supporting particularly those children who have required some additional help with their learning. Mrs Southall has been an advocate for maths in school and has worked passionately for thirteen years here at Stamshaw. We will all miss her very much and wish her every happiness at her new school.

Many of you will also know Mrs Carr who has been at the school for fourteen years! Mrs Carr is wonderfully kind and nurturing and has supported our children lovingly and calmly for many years. You will know her for her beautiful singing voice and passion for music. We will miss them both and send all our love from the Stamshaw Team.

September return

We were delighted that at the end of last week the Government shared their plans for September. They are clear that their intention is for all children to return to school full time in September and schools will be able to teach full class groups. As you will have read in the last letter from the CEO, schools will still be expected to maintain rigorous infection control and keep groups of children in protective 'bubbles' by minimising the contact between the class groups at the start and the end of the day and at lunch and play times. Rigorous cleansing and hygiene measures will continue to be in place and children will not gather as a whole school for assembly or sports activities. School will continue to be different from before the lockdown and we need to be prepared for this to be the 'new normal' and for us to need to operate in this way for the full academic year. There is much to prepare over the next few weeks and we look forward to welcoming all of our **new** Year 1 and Year 2 back to school on **Monday 7th September.**

Further to the CEO's letter to you of 8th July regarding a possible closure on Wednesday afternoons, schools have received new advice from the DfE and from Public Health England. We have now been able to put in place further measures to ensure that the school is COVID secure and that children are able to remain in their protective class 'bubbles' for the majority of their time in the school. I am delighted to tell you that we are therefore able to provide **in-school** activity for **all** children on a Wednesday afternoon from September, as long as the information from the government does not change between now and then.

I will write to you again towards the end of the holiday to update you with any new information and to confirm staggered start and finish times for all the year groups. Please continue to check the school website regularly for updates. These will appear under the tab entitled 'Covid -19'.

For now, I would like to thank you all once again for your unwavering support and commitment to us here at Stamshaw. Your generosity of spirit, good wishes and kindness has been overwhelming. You have shown compassion and dedication to your children and to all the team here at Stamshaw and we are truly grateful to you all. We look forward to seeing you in September and once again we wish our Stamshaw Stars who are leaving us, the most wonderful good luck in the future.

I would like to wish you and your families a happy, peaceful and a restful summer break.

With warmest of wishes,

Mrs J Cooper

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Headteacher