

Dear Parents

As I'm sure you are all aware by now, there has been a delay in the government's roadmap, and current restrictions will not be lifted until July 19th at the earliest. With outside numbers of only 30 allowed on our field this has implications for some of our events this summer - which I know you will be as disappointed about as we are.

We will not be able to invite parents in to Sports Day or to our Leavers' Assembly. However, these two events WILL still take place. We will do our best to film as much of the sports day that we can and we will record the whole of the Leavers' Assembly and share it with you. If you recall, this was how we did our Nativity Play at Christmas and many people commented on how lovely it was to share the event with a wider audience. If you aren't clear, this is me trying to find the silver lining amongst the clouds! It might also allow those of us who are rather emotional to cry our tears in private. If anyone has any particular skills or equipment to support with the filming we would love to hear from you!

The trip to Finkley Down Farm on 15th July will still be able to happen, in year group bubbles, as already planned. We have also chosen to keep our end of term family picnic pencilled in for Friday 23rd July. This falls after the 19th July and so we will await further guidance before making a decision. However, it is important to note that IF this goes ahead we should all be mindful that there will be the potential for anyone who attends to be 'track and traced' and have to self-isolate for 10 days. If you are planning a holiday before Monday 2nd August you need to be aware of the risk of not being able to go away. I will be giving the same advice to school staff if they have an early holiday planned as the last thing any of us needs, after such a challenging year, is to be told we can't go on a much needed holiday. We are finding more staff, not fewer, off at the moment either because they have been track and traced, or because someone in their family needs to be tested.

If nothing else, this pandemic will have taught us how to deal with disappointment - and our own children are a shining example of this. As some of you will know, we are compiling a year 2 Leavers' book and the children have been sharing their memories of their time in this school from year R to year 2. When we looked at all of their memories it struck us that not one child had mentioned lockdown! They talked about the helicopter landing for Red, White and Blue day, toasting marshmallows in the forest, Father Christmas visiting, but no mention of home learning - much as I'm sure they enjoyed it!! I hope this reassures you that they will have positives memories of their time in school over this last 18 months.

Once again I need to thank you for your understanding - every one of us is doing the best we can in a difficult situation but we can still acknowledge that we don't always have to like it!

With love from Jacky