

# QI Noticeboard

June 2020

Dear Parents,

Since our last Noticeboard in May, we have seen the return of Year F and Year 1, and a sizeable increase in the demand for emergency childcare from Key Workers. Implementing Government guidelines to enable the return of more children has been extremely challenging, and we continue to evaluate our systems to keep everyone as safe from infection as is possible. It is deeply saddening that, aside from direction given by the Government, the current need to split children into smaller 'bubble' groups and isolate each separately with designated staff has stretched our capacity to its limit, preventing the return of additional year groups. We share the frustration of parents but assure you that we are being as creative as possible and, if there were any means to increase our capacity, we would implement it.

Those of you who have been on the school site will have seen the introduction of our new pedestrian one-way system, demarcated by barriers and arrows on the paving. We are asking that only one parent accompanies each child to school, and that parents do not enter the school building unless a visit to the office is essential and the purpose cannot be achieved by other means. Access to the office has been changed to the door to the left of the main entrance, to enable a one-way route, and we ask that only one parent approaches the desk at a time and one further parent may wait inside the building at a safe distance (if it's raining or too hot to be outside!).

Start and finish times have been staggered, to minimise the number of people on site, and we are reliant on **parents not to arrive earlier than asked** and to observe the social distancing systems in place. Please help us to ensure this is upheld – we hate sending naggy texts! To remind you, the times are:

Year F	Start 8:50am – 9am	Collect 2:50pm
Year 1	Start 9:05am – 9:15am	Collect 3:05pm
Key Workers	Start 8:30am – 8:45am	Collect 3:20pm (unless dropping/collecting Year F/1 sibling at same time)

In the meantime, we are trying to remain as positive as we can; we will continue to provide learning activities online and to maintain contact with families. We would like to reassure you once again, that when all children are back at school, we will pick up from where they are and continue with the curriculum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for your kind messages of appreciation and support at this difficult time and for sharing examples of the children's learning – which has been wonderful! We have been thrilled by the effort put into some of the learning that has been produced and are hoping to share some of these through a 'Gallery' on our website – watch this space! 😊

Take care of yourselves and enjoy the sunshine.

Mrs Allen

## Information/Updates



We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the **Youth Sport Trust Certificate of Recognition** for ongoing commitment and achievement in the School Games programme during the Autumn and Spring Terms.



**Staff Leaver** – As 3N parents have already been made aware, Mrs Newland is expecting the arrival of her first child in July. We wish her well and look forward to hearing from her during maternity leave.

**Favourite Staff Songs** – To keep spirits up, we have compiled a list of the music we love and are sharing this with children on the Music tab of our Learning from Home webpage:

<https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+from+Home+during+School+Closure&pid=77>

**Scooters and Bikes** – as we have many more children and parents accessing the site once again, can we please remind you all not to allow your child to ride a scooter or bike while on the school site, for the safety of others. We have had incidents in the past when a child has been hurt.

**Returning in September** – The Government has announced that it will be publishing information and guidance to help schools prepare for a full return in September. While we do not yet know what this will look like in practice - or the measures which will form part of this guidance - we will plan on this basis and continue to keep parents informed as much as we are able to.

## Governors

### Marcus Cator, Chair of Governors

The past term has been significantly challenging for QI. Understanding the threat and risk of Covid-19 to our community and our school, and responding to this, has been of unprecedented concern and a daily challenge. No matter what your personal circumstances are, trying to adapt to the impact of social distancing and compliance with changing rules is not easy. Our passion is the engagement and education of all our children, but balanced with this is the need to safeguard each child to the best of our ability. Uppermost in our minds has been the wish not to see one of our children or their families suffer as a consequence of any decisions we make.

Guidance from the Department for Education and the Local Education Authority has not been easy to interpret and implement in such fast-moving and difficult times. QI has to ensure that we are compliant with the guidance, considerate of the limitations of QI as an environment, whilst trying to reach as many of our children as possible. The staff team has continued to work incredibly hard to provide weekly online Learning at Home activities, enabling parents to secure materials and educational guidance. In addition, parents can access resources made available by the Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

Year F and Year 1 are now getting some level of normality in their education, and Year 6 will at least have a final week at the end of term to celebrate their achievements at primary stage before they transition to Year 7. Throughout, since the beginning of lockdown, QI has been providing emergency childcare for our Key Workers and their families. While we welcome these children back into school, we ask parents to consider carefully whether they meet the definition of a Key Worker, or we risk compromising our ability to support our Year F and Year 1 children.

The Governors extend their ongoing support to Mrs Allen and the QI team, and to all parents for their resilience and determination to achieve the best we can through working together. Our thanks to each and every one of you for your patience, understanding and support as we strive to recover from this significant national challenge.

## Social Distancing Guidance

While we are all experiencing 'lockdown-fatigue', we cannot afford to relax social distancing measures until we are told that it is safe to do so by the Government. The Government has advised: "Parents must do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially outside of school. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults, as far as possible."

This also applies when dropping off or collecting children from school. Regrettably, staff have witnessed some parents allowing their children from different bubble groups to mingle, and even failing to observe social distancing themselves.

Please, please follow the guidelines. A second wave of the coronavirus, potentially a second lockdown, does not bear thinking about in terms of health or the children's education and social development. Let us all do everything we can to avoid this outcome and stay safe.



### INSET / Diary Dates 2020

Last day of term for Year 1 on **Fri 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Year 6 in school from **Mon 13<sup>th</sup> to Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July**

Last day of term for Year F on **Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July**

Last day of Key Worker Childcare on **Tues 21<sup>st</sup> July**

School closed for INSET on **Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

## Feedback Opportunity

The staff and governors of QI are always appreciative of your views on the school and its performance; to ensure continual improvement, we need to understand the perception our families have of our care and provision for their children. We invite parents to give feedback at any time throughout the year, at present through the facility on our website.