



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU  
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Headteacher: Mrs Susanne Dove B. Ed (Hons), NPQH

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Dear Parents

Further to the Government announcement this week we have risk assessed the building and staffing with the Governing Body and regret to inform you that we are not able to invite any further pupils in to school before the end of the Summer term.

We do not take this decision lightly, but must ensure the safety of our children and staff. As you may have seen from the photographs on the website and Facebook, the school is now looking very different with children being taught in small groups or "Bubbles."

We have allocated each existing Bubble with both indoor and outdoor space and suitable toilet facilities. We have no more suitable space to add additional Bubbles of children, nor the staff to allocate to those Bubbles. Where there is not a Bubble in a classroom, we are using that space either for its toilet facilities or to provide a safe space for clinically vulnerable staff to work. We are using all available staff (who are not clinically vulnerable) in the existing Bubbles allowing for 3 members of staff in each. This will ensure cover for any non COVID-19 related staff absence should it be required, as we cannot transfer staff between Bubbles.

I am sure that you can imagine that this has been logistically challenging but has enabled us to welcome back as many children as we safely can.

I am thankful to our staff, who have shown remarkable flexibility and commitment, and also to you as parents, for your understanding and patience as we have worked to establish a safe environment where children can still enjoy their learning. Phone calls and communication via email from staff have continued for children learning at home.

Home learning will continue using Padlet to provide a structure for your week's activities. This is a guide and does not need to be rigidly followed. The well-being and safety of you all continues to be paramount.

We appreciate that all families are in unusual circumstances, some are Key Workers, some are shielding themselves or other members of their family. Many of you continue to be very worried and will have concerns about whether you have made the right choice for your children. We recognise and empathise with this. Please try not to feel guilty or to make judgement of others, we all need to deal with the current situation in our own way, and a way



that it best for your own family.

Whatever year group your child is in ,and whatever decision you have made regarding returning to school, please be assured that you all continue to be part of the Heathwood family and that we will continue to support you, as best we can. Please keep in touch using your class email address to share your child's work.

At this stage, we have not yet been advised by the Government how the school will operate from September. We will, of course, keep you fully informed as soon as we have been made aware of any proposals.

In the light of this information, we have taken the decision to close the school to all pupils apart from Year 4 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July and will be inviting all Year 4 pupils back for a socially distanced leavers event.

Stay safe



Mrs Susanne Dove  
Head Teacher

