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Two travellers are transformed and enriched by sharing their journey with a guide. We view our work to be similar in making a difference to future lives. We travel together on our journey of transformation and commit our school to always being supportive, nurturing and challenging.
Luke 24: 13 – 35

Thursday 25th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the announcement of a reduction in the two-metre distancing rule from 4th July, I would like to clarify things from the Emmaus Federation's position around the government's advice that schools can be "Inviting back additional pupils, where there is capacity". For transparency I have included the actual guidance as follows:

We know that in some schools, there will be capacity to welcome more children back, in group sizes of no more than 15, before the summer holidays. This may be because take-up amongst eligible children is lower than expected, or because there is additional space still available within the school and available staff to teach and supervise. There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.

Primary schools should only welcome back additional children where:

- they have already made provision available for children of critical workers, vulnerable children, and children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 and have ensured as many as possible are able to attend (especially for those who would particularly benefit from being in school because of other disadvantage)*
- they can accommodate more children while still following the approaches set out in the protective measures guidance and their own risk assessment*
- they do not require additional funding, staff or classrooms to do so. If schools have access to space on other school sites (for example, local secondary schools, if that is feasible alongside the secondary offer) they may use this, taking care to ensure children stay in allocated groups. However, other community buildings (such as village halls) should not be used to expand capacity this term, while they remain closed in line with the government's roadmap*

Where schools have capacity, they may choose to welcome back additional pupils. It is up to schools to decide which pupils to prioritise, based on their knowledge of their children and communities. They may choose to welcome back pupils in another year group.

When deciding how to welcome additional pupils back before the summer, schools should consider how they will communicate to parents, including those with children in reception, year 1 or 6 who have not yet taken up their offer of a place. Schools should ascertain if those

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parents want to take up the offer, making it clear that if they indicate that they do not, or do not respond, schools may offer this capacity to another pupil in which case they won't subsequently be able to take up a place this term. They should ensure they are still able to accommodate vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

I have communicated with the local authority and it is their understanding that it is still best practice to continue with the present arrangements and recommend that we follow the 2 metre guidelines until the end of the academic year and that the Health and Safety Executive's guidance is still 2 metres to ensure the building is Covid Secure. We will not be making any changes to our existing provision this academic year.

The federation is full apart from a handful of part-time places at Swineshead for KS2 critical workers.

Priority of Places

1. We continue to prioritise those who were key workers from March and those in reception, year 1 and year 6.
2. Where there is a request for a key worker place and no space in their year group bubble, if there is a space in a bubble out of year group that space should be offered first.
3. Where the above is not possible key workers' children will be put on a waiting list.

Please can parents review whether they actually need a daily place for their child if they have other means of childcare. We will continue to provide a weekly timetable of lessons for home-learners until the end of the academic year. Please inform the school office to inform us of any availability as a matter of urgency.

Intervention Support for Pupils

We are waiting on further information about the Government's 'catch-up' package. The funding is expected from September and it is expected to be spent on small group tuition for whoever needs it. This will be a one-off grant to support pupils who have lost time in education as a result of the pandemic, regardless of their income or background.

Furthermore, a National Tutoring Programme also aims to provide high quality tuition for the most disadvantaged pupils over the 2020/2021 academic year.

September Opening

As of yet, we have not received any Department for Education guidance for the next academic year. We are hopeful that we can have all children back on a full-time timetable. A release is expected within the next two weeks and as soon as we know more about this, I will of course communicate it to you.

Information regarding class allocations and the staffing for your child will be sent out in early July. Arrangements for the transition arrangements for our September reception

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children is all in place and everything is being communicated via a dedicated Dojo page for reception 2020 parents. We are closely reviewing any changes to the curriculum and changes to procedures for September and information about this is included in the Emmaus Federation June/September Action Plan which is available on Dojo and on the school website.

Free School meals

Further clarification is being sought by Lincolnshire County Council in regards to the voucher scheme over the summer holidays. Families who are eligible will be issued vouchers, but whether this will be a one-off voucher to cover the six-weeks or a weekly voucher is yet to be confirmed.

Reports

The reports will go out the week commencing 13th July. Reports will be posted to those children who are not in school. The report will not contain any information about attendance or assessment data.

Summer holidays

A recent Government briefing confirmed that there were no plans for schools to be open over the traditional summer break although, again, we are still waiting for DfE guidance. From 1st July, friends and family are able to provide childcare alongside family's usual childcare providers who are already open. I have been in contact with JB Sports to look at the possibility of a holiday club or to sign-post families to their provision at a different site.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Claire Collett

Executive Headteacher
Sutterton Fourfields CE Primary School
Swineshead St Mary's CE Primary School

