



Federation of Pinvin C of E First School and St Nicholas C of E Middle School

Main Street, Pinvin, Worcestershire WR10 2ER

Federation Head teacher: Mrs Sandra Jennings

Federation Advisory Head teacher: Mrs Judith Tinsley and Head of Pinvin CE First School: Mrs Emma Rose

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Tuesday 9th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from today's government announcement, you will be aware that the government have now rolled back on the decision to welcome all Primary School aged children back before the final month of the school year. They have said that schools must continue to accommodate key worker children and vulnerable children as a key priority and Years R, 1 or 6 where capacity allows.

As you are aware school has remained open since Friday 20th March, including school holidays. All teaching staff and teaching assistants able to work, have attended school since that date.

From Monday June 15th, we are pleased to say that we will have welcomed back Reception and Year 1 children who wanted to return to school. However, sadly, we are unable to welcome back the Year 6 children who expressed a desire to return. The reasoning behind this is as follows:

- All teaching staff are now teaching within dedicated bubbles of which there are 9 in the Middle school and 4 in the First school.
- Each bubble requires for health and safety and safeguarding reasons minimum 2 members of staff attached to it.
- Some staff sadly cannot yet return to school because they are vulnerable themselves or shielding.
- The number of keyworkers has quadrupled in the last 2 weeks and as the government has stated, this group must be prioritised.
- Staffing allocation is now at full capacity and we are unable to create any further bubbles due to these restrictions and the current government guidance that we must follow.

Thank you to you all for supporting your children with their home learning and accessing all the materials provided, whether online or on paper. We realise this is no easy task.

Tel: 01386 554196

office@pinvinfed.co.uk

www.pinvinfed.co.uk

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Moving forward, please be assured that children at home will have access to the same learning as the children in school. Having received such positive feedback about the quality of learning opportunities provided, which we will continue to provide throughout the rest of the term, we hope you will understand why we are unable to maintain such a high level of marking and feedback now that all staff are allocated to bubbles.

Some parents have asked about live streaming of lessons. Unfortunately, whilst we realise that several private schools are doing this, the vast majority schools have decided not to do this for the following reasons:

- Many parents do not have reliable internet access or sufficient devices to enable equity for all of our children.
- There are significant safeguarding and privacy concerns around live streaming of lessons within both the school and home environment.

Some of the home learning we are providing does contain teacher led videos, which can be accessed at any time and are proving to be an invaluable resource for many parents.

As I put in my newsletter sent out last weekend, we continue to be creative in thinking of the best way possible to support all the children in their transition to the next stage of their learning journeys.

We totally understand that this is frustrating for everybody, including ourselves and we continue to work hard for the best outcomes for our children and families.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Jennings

Federation Headteacher

Claire Davies

DOWMAT CEO

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office@pinvinfed.co.uk

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