

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Connaught Parents and Carers,  
I hope you are all well and that your families are keeping safe.  
I wanted to write to you to update you on where we are with the wider opening of the school to include our Year 6.

### **Partial Wider Opening**

As you know, a parent survey went out school-wide to ascertain whether parents were a yes, no or maybe in terms of whether they were likely to send their children back to school before the end of the summer term. Thank you if you managed to contribute to that as it was enormously helpful.  
We have been planning for the partial wider opening of the school for Year 6 for the past two weeks but as you can probably imagine, this has not been straightforward. We have received 41 sets of changes to the original guidelines which were sent out nearly two weeks ago and formulating plans to get the year 6 children back to school in the first instance has been a bit of a minefield. Staff have been working incredibly hard on risk assessments, plans and the logistics of getting the children and staff back in safely. The Year 6 children are coming back in a phased manner, in 'bubbles' of 10 children, half the year group at a time. We have a significantly depleted workforce, for one reason and another, and so staff capacity is currently not what it was. We also have to consider the Key Worker's children who have been with us all the way through. It is worth noting that the government intends to make its final decision as to whether it is safe to open schools to more year groups or not on **28th May**, so the situation may well change again. I would be very surprised if it did.

### **Years 3, 4 and 5**

I am sure that many of you are wondering what this means for your child, who isn't a key worker and isn't in Year 6. In the written guidance on 12<sup>th</sup> May it said,

***"the government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the Summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review."***

I have no greater wish than to see all of our children back in Connaught where they belong, with their friends and their teachers and support staff. However, I am sure that you will understand that we have to see what these first steps look like with Year 6. Having the Year 6s in smaller groups means that more classrooms and resources are taken up and that our workforce is stretched. However, we just need to see what the first few weeks look like for year 6, and then we can turn our attention to other year groups. We will do whatever we can.

### **Home Learning Survey**

In the meantime, the home learning will continue. You may remember you were asked to also complete a survey about home learning and the number of responses was fantastic! I can share some of the results with you below:

**I am pleased with the online home learning/packs of work set by the school during this period of lockdown.** 96% agreed or strongly agreed

**The online work/packs of work set by teachers matches my child's skill level.** 91% agreed or strongly agreed

**My child finds the feedback on their work from teachers helpful.** 96% agreed or strongly agreed

**The communication from the school has been informative.** 98% agreed or strongly agreed

**The communication from teachers has been useful for my child's home learning experience.** 93% agreed or strongly agreed

Headteacher: Miss S McGann

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Saunders

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**The phone calls from teachers and other staff have had a positive impact on my child's well-being.** 94% agreed or strongly agreed

**The school has provided the best possible work and support in these unusual circumstances.** 95% agreed or strongly agreed.

Thank you, thank you for your positive responses.

### **Outdoor Library**

The Outdoor Library, of which many of you have made good use, will continue to run (we will refresh the book selection over half term) but we may need to reduce the hours a little.

### **Phone Calls**

With more of our teaching staff coming into school, whilst also creating the home learning videos and responding to your child's work, we are going to have to pare back the phone calls home for some of you. I know that many of your children have appreciated these calls and certainly the staff have felt that they have connected with you and your children in a way that they possibly hadn't before, so we will see if there is anything we can do about that.

To finish, I will say that I really feel as though we have pulled together as a school community and I am enormously grateful for being a part of something so strong and caring.

So, we will continue to watch the news, listen out for updates and keep a keen ear out for what will be happening next in education.

Please all have a fantastic half term, stay safe and we will see you all soon

Take Care,

Miss McGann

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