



INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

24.6.21

Dear Year 6 parents,

All decisions made in the last few days have been done so in order to keep staff, children and the community safe following lengthy discussions with Public Health England.

Some of these positive cases have been discovered by chance following the Sicklinghall School closure when a LFT has been used as some children have been asymptomatic. This is alarming as we have so far been relatively unaffected in our small villages.

One of our main priorities is keeping the children in school until the end of term being that they have has so much time away from school so far; and ensuring that they are able to attend their vital transition days to a number of different high schools. These days are not without some risk and we are also considering how plans may impact on our families if isolation is required for the first 10 days of the holidays if rates continue to rise across the county.

The High Schools are also making changes – one of the most significant is from King James's which has reduced the transition days from two full days to a single half-day session. They are facing similar constraints to us and are now asking parents to drop off and collect from their school, a strategy we relied upon recently. Other high schools in the area may also be in the process of altering transition days.

We have decided that we cannot risk further disruption and therefore planned activities outside of the immediate local area inevitably increase this risk.

We understand more than anyone the disappointment that cancelling visits causes. However, we have to put the safety of our children, families and staff first. As explained in my previous letter to you, the rates of infection in schools are rising rapidly and we now have a number of cases among children and staff from one bubble, some of which **work between schools** to ensure we have the correct ratios to keep our children safe and provide them with the best possible education and appropriate staffing ratios.

I, Mrs Richards, Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Sumner, alongside the whole staff team, are working relentlessly, adapting to the constant changes behind the scenes. We understand that other schools are doing things such as residential. Ours was booked for March and we were unable to go. Schools attending now are usually schools who always go at this point in the year. Please don't assume that we haven't considered this as hours of time have been committed to searching for options. We did enquire about dates for a residential and couldn't find a) a free date that didn't clash with their transition days and b) would accommodate a sole group of such few children.

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We have already responded to the implications of the Sicklinghall school closure for isolation and subsequent positive cases which now means that children are not back until Friday 2nd July.

Relationship, Sex and Health Education has been completely separated – this is at an additional cost of £200. School will fund this increased cost (now totalling £750) entirely.

We have **already** put provisional dates in place for drumming to be done separately, at an increased cost of £190. Once the situation with positive cases has calmed down, and the PCR results we are waiting for at both sites have been returned, we will be offering this to parents if it is possible to do so. This will now be £28.20 per child and donations from parents must cover the full cost.

For Bikeability to be possible, another instructor is needed and the company have not yet been able to commit to this. At present they will only take groups of 9 which means that several children from each school remain. Either there are two additional groups extra for the remaining children to work separately, or they send another person to accommodate the full year group. They are not necessarily able to do this due to the safety implications of Goldsborough Village. As stated previously, they will **not** do this in Sicklinghall at all. In addition, in the Termly Admin Conference today, the Health and Safety aspects of Bikeability were mentioned and children from another school would not be allowed inside to use the facilities. There would be no toileting options nor a place for them to eat if it rains. This poses additional barriers for us which parents wouldn't perhaps realise that we are struggling with yet we are working hard to try and accommodate.

Therefore, at present, we cannot confirm that any of these aspects will go ahead due to the uncertainty of being able to fulfil the requirements.

If they do go ahead, there will be significant financial implications and we will have to see if this is viable based on the number of families who contribute.

Everyone is working flat out to try and ensure that things can go ahead – we are constantly arranging / rearranging things behind the scenes such as school photos, a safe sports day, a safe 'picnic' at the end of the year for Y6 and their families, for the ice cream van to visit etc.

I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter and hope that you understand the challenges we are currently facing as a whole federation team when looking at the bigger picture.

We will make final decisions based on the safety of the children and staff and will let you know as soon as we are able.

Yours sincerely



Miss Z Pickard
Headteacher