



1st June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Moving Forward – Big Step 1 - Day 1

Just three weeks ago when the Prime Minister first announced that schools would be opening their doors to more children, we made a commitment to you – a commitment to keep you informed and to keep your children safe.

Our school community and the relationships that we have with you are really important to us, and with this in mind it seems appropriate to drop you a line and build a picture for you of what 'Day 1' has looked like at Haytor View today.

As we opened the doors to children in Years 1, 6 and Reception, as well as to children of key workers we have seen 19 children join us. We are of course so happy to see them and look forward to seeing new faces each day this week. Having said this we are equally happy with and respectful of the difficult decisions that families are having to make, which is seeing children not join us yet and opting to stay at home at the moment.

With a maximum of 8 children in each class with their own teacher and classroom support staff we are working hard to ensure the environment is as safe as it can possibly be. We understand however that the bigger picture still leads to some concerns. **It is important that you as parents make the decision** as to when you and your family are comfortable with your child joining us again. There is no question that **you know what is best for you, your child and your family**. Having children join us for the one day each week that they have been allocated is a time that we want them to enjoy and look forward to – and the timing of this has to be right. We have seen lots of smiles and laughter today, we have caught up with what children have been doing at home, sharing stories and having fun, but that can only happen when everyone involved is ready, feels safe and comfortable.

With this in mind, we are keen to ensure that where children have been allocated a day to come into school, **this offer will remain open every week whether you decide to take it up or not**. Your place will not be taken by anyone else – this means that when **you decide** that the time is right you can join us again.

We hope that this update provides a bit of an insight into how we are working with children and how we are feeling at this time. We are continuing to keep our website updated with ideas and activities for things you can do at home; we'll be continuing to phone you to say 'hello' whether you are joining us in school or not. Most importantly, we continue to invite you to get in touch with us and have a chat about whatever is on your mind – you may want different learning activities, you may want to find out more about what school is looking like at the moment. Whatever it is, just get in touch, through the school website, www.haytorview.devon.sch.uk, School Gateway or by telephone. Our phone is now being looked after during school hours and you can leave a message outside these times and someone will get back to you.

The whole team at Haytor View send you their best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board