



6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Next Steps – September 2020 - Year 1 – Year 6**

Following our letter to the school community on 29<sup>th</sup> June, we are incredibly grateful for all of the contact made with us concerning plans for your children from September 2020. Your responses - some from children as well as parents, made it very clear to us, that the 'preferred plan' shared with you is overwhelmingly the way forward favoured by the school community for children's return to us in Autumn 2020.

With this in mind we are now busy putting plans in place which will see **all of those children who will be in Years 1-6 in September, return to the teacher, learning partners, class base and friends that they left when the school closed in March 2020.** This arrangement will be in place for the first half of the Autumn Term.

Your responses showed us that parents and children, as well as the school team and Governors, feel assured that this start will support levels of comfort, confidence, attendance, engagement and ultimately learning. This will be important to children and adults, at a time that for many will feel like another significant step in a landscape that has felt very unfamiliar and disconcerting for many months.

We are keen that this return underpins our approach and commitment to ensuring that, following the school's absence in your children's lives, we can once again start to get on with securing progress for your child. This comes at a time when we must recognise that this is more important than ever, the government and media are rightly talking about 'gaps' that will have grown in children's development, and this positive start to the school year is the first of many approaches that we will take to securing the best progress for your children moving forward. We know that children, like all of society must feel safe, comfortable and happy to be able to learn and we believe that the approach that you have given us your approval to take will best enable this. We cannot ignore the events of the last few months and we believe we must adapt in light of them to secure the best outcomes for children.

With consistency and familiarity in mind we are pleased to be able to say that with the exception of Mr Lawford who we wish well, we are not seeing any of our staff moving on from Haytor View this summer. This will mean that when your child returns to us they will be welcomed by the faces that they feel are closest to them and that they know best.

Mrs Cousins will remain on maternity leave following the birth of her daughter in April, but children will see her in school from time-to-time during the Autumn Term, as well as at the 'get-togethers' with teachers that we are offering parents and children from 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> July. During the period when Mrs Cousins will not be with us we are really pleased to have Mrs Russell back at Haytor View leading the learning of children in her class. As a very experienced teacher known to us for many years, who has relationships with both children and staff throughout the school, we are very much looking forward to having Mrs Russell back on board.

So as we head towards the summer holidays, please make sure that you have made arrangements with us to come and say 'hello' on our 'get-together' days – it would be great to see each of you ahead of the summer break. As a result of plans and actions that we will need to put in place ahead of the Autumn Term the **school will now open to children on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** and we look forward to seeing you all then.

We hope that in spite of the challenges that the last few months have presented, you and your families are able to enjoy the summer break and begin to look forward to a positive, safe and comfortable return to Haytor View. Of course, should you wish to contact us to clarify any of the details in this letter feel free to get in touch with us by phone, email or through School Gateway.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Katy Galling  
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba  
Chair of Governing Board

Haytor View Community Primary School & Nursery Queensway Newton Abbot TQ12 4BD  
Tel 01626 203040 admin@haytorview.devon.sch.uk www.haytorview.devon.sch.uk