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Dear Parents/ Carers,

## Summer 2 Newsletter

I hope that you and your families are keeping well, staying safe and that you are enjoying the lovely weather that hopefully will continue for the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone who has sent kind messages of thanks and support in recognition of the challenges that schools are currently facing. It means a lot! Our staff team has been working very hard to reopen school to more children following Government guidance to ensure we do so as safely as possible and I wanted to write to update you about what has been happening recently.



Over the past two weeks, the year groups which the Government announced should return have successfully done so; Y6 returned on 10<sup>th</sup> June, Y1 on 15<sup>th</sup> June, Reception on 17<sup>th</sup> June and finally Nursery children started back today. Our key worker children have continued to attend since we 'closed' in March but as more parents have returned to work, this group has increased in number recently. The groups in school are split into 'bubbles' with a small team of staff and each has their own indoor and outdoor spaces, for example Y6 are using their usual classroom as well as the Y5 classroom and have half of the pencil playground and half of the rear field. We also have a system of staggered start and end times, breaktimes and lunchtimes designed so that they do not come into contact with other bubbles. It is very different from how we usually do things, it's a lot to remember and it's quite complicated, but it works and still feels like Mersey Vale!



I've added a few photos to give you an idea of how our environments have changed and so that you can see what things are like in school. Thank you to all parents of children who are now attending school for following our procedures and helping to keep everyone safe.



We would love to be able to invite other year groups to return to school, but at present it is not possible. The Government has stated that there is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so. At Mersey Vale we are using all available classrooms and staff for the five bubbles already back in school. Sadly this means that Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 children will not be able to return until September. We sincerely hope that by then all children will be able to return but again this will be dependent upon Government guidance as well as our own risk assessments.

In May we issued a survey to all parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and to key worker parents asking them to indicate whether they intended for their child to return. The number of children in school is increasing every day which is great to see. Our key worker bubble in particular is very nearly full so please only take a place if it is absolutely essential. Please can I also remind parents to give us a minimum of one week's notice if you wish your Nursery, Reception, Y1 or Y6 child to return to school?

In preparation for children moving to new classes in September we hope to arrange some transition activities which will take place towards the end of term. Children from year groups already in school will be able to have a 'move up' session with their new teacher, although this will be held outdoors, rather than in their new classroom. Children from Y2 – Y5 will receive a video message on ClassDojo from their new class teacher and will be set a simple transition activity as part of their home learning. Our Nursery and Reception teachers are already making contact with parents of new starters who will be joining us next term but we will be unable to offer our usual story and play sessions in July. We know this is not ideal but hope that you appreciate that we have to do things differently this year and trust that we will do everything possible to make the transition for all children to their new class successful.

Thank you to all parents and carers who are supporting their child's home learning. We know this is not always easy, but anything you can do to help your child to do the activities set by their teacher each week will be of real benefit. Please keep in touch with teachers and share work with them through ClassDojo – we love to see and hear about what everyone has been doing and it's a great way to stay connected!

I will write to you again towards the end of the school year to let you know arrangements for September. Early in July we will also be issuing our reports to parents summarising the progress and achievements that children have made this year. In the meantime if you have any questions or need any further information please contact the school office by phone or email [headteacher@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. J. Mullane  
Headteacher