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Dear Key Worker Parents

It is wonderful to be supporting the pupils of parents who are Key Workers. I know you have appreciated the good work of the staff to provide this very flexible provision from the outset of the pandemic, including during holiday periods. Up and down the country, schools are continuing to rally to the cause and respond, as best they can, to this mandate, as well as undertake the phased return of other learners, according to their own context and setting. You will be aware too that the government is driving the agenda to return children to school and that schools have had to respond, often at short notice, as best they can, to a changing brief. Given this evolving remit, I thought I would give you an update in relation to Key Worker provision and how we intend to move forward with this.

The Key Worker group (currently taught by Mrs Saddington and Mrs Brown, and for now, Mr Feldon) now comprises 15 families. As such, the 'pod' or 'bubble' is now closed. You may be aware that the government guidance states that schools need to try to contain bubbles of pupils to avoid spreading the virus.

Several more parents have asked about our Key Worker provision, as they now qualify for support, or are in a position to return to their Key Worker roles. Alas, as a small school, we do not have the capacity to create an additional 'Key Worker Bubble' alongside the classes that are returning to school. Also, we are now trying to return to some sense of normality (or as close to it as is feasible) and operate as effectively as possible. This is no easy feat. Given that most of children at Horsley (i.e. the vast majority of children in years, 2, 3, 4 and 5) are now highly unlikely to have access to a full-time education at Horsley until at least September (at the very earliest!), it is hard to justify offering a sought-after key worker place in a key worker bubble for a child who currently only attends one or two days a week. Therefore, as of 22nd June, all children in this group **will be expected to attend full-time**. This will also align with children returning in other year groups (i.e. Year R, Year 6 and ultimately Year 1) who will be in school on a full-time basis. This will make day-to-day management with such a small team more feasible.

Furthermore, as we have now moved away from a model of 'provision' or 'care' to one of 'teaching and learning', it will also help teachers to plan sequences of learning which respond to pupils' needs (as opposed to care/provision) and build on prior learning, based on the National Curriculum. I appreciate this is a change of emphasis, but I know you will understand the rationale and the difficult decisions we are having to make in these unprecedented times.

If this new arrangement is unlikely to work out for you, and you no longer require the place, please let me know as soon as possible so I can offer the place to a child who is eager to return full-time and on the growing Key Worker waiting list. Thank you for your understanding in this regard. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Yours faithfully

Gary Price
Headteacher

