



15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Review of changes to the school day - January 2021.**

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of this term (we finish next Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December), we have been carefully planning for the Spring Term 2021.

We have seen many benefits to the pupils attending for morning or afternoon sessions in smaller groups, including:

- Pupils have been more focused in their learning and have benefitted from the increased staff support available when we have smaller numbers;
- Reducing the need to hold/support pupils more closely and frequently, and the possible increased risk this has for spread of the virus.
- Reducing the anxiety levels for many pupils
- No further closures of bubbles to date (although we recognise this could still change before the end of term)

As we hear of the vaccine being rolled out, and as many pupils are complying more effectively with the Covid restrictions at school, we feel it is now appropriate to start increasing the time pupils are on site - in a measured and controlled way, which is safe for everyone.

We are planning to:

- Continue with the **morning/afternoon sessions during the first week back** -Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is an Inset Day);
- Week beginning **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January Juniper and Ash to return to full time**, while all other classes continue with morning and afternoon sessions.
- Week beginning **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Spruce, Pine and Cedar to return to full time**, while Chestnut class continue with morning and afternoon sessions (Juniper and Ash will continue with full time).
- Week beginning **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January – all pupils are on site full time.**

This plan, we feel, will work for our pupils in the New Year.

However, as Covid is still with us, we have to continue to think about the safety of our pupils and staff. For this reason, the timetable will be regularly reviewed and adapted to meet our Covid risk assessment. This could result in returning to the morning and afternoon sessions if necessary.

We would also like to thank you for your co-operation during what has been a really challenging time for us all. With your support and partnership, we believe we can now take steps towards a return to on-site school activities.

We will, of course, keep this decision under constant review and continually look at how we can best support our pupils in as safe a way as possible.

We thank you in advance for your support in making our plan become a reality in the New Year.

Wishing that you and your families all stay safe and well and have a peaceful festive break and New Year.

Zoe, Charlotte, John and the Fern House Team.