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Head Teacher: Mr R Adams

South Gosforth First School

*‘Roots to grow and wings to fly’*

Dear Parents & Carers

Here we are again at Friday - We have got through another week safely!

Just a brief update from me this week to let you all know how things are going in school and what we are planning for next week.

Mrs Whitehouse and I carried out another comprehensive risk assessment this week as obviously we introduced another 2 critical key worker 'bubble groups' in to school from Monday. We looked really closely at the school environment, standards of hygiene, social distancing measures, procedures and protocols and pupil and staff wellbeing amongst a range of other things. We have also been in regular contact with our governor COVID committee group to feed back to them on how things are looking at the moment. Obviously our risk assessment needs to change all the time in light of the evolving situation in school, as well as taking in to account the latest government legislation and guidance.

I am delighted to announce that after carrying out this process this week, we do believe that it is safe enough to introduce our Year 4 children back in to school from next week (week beginning 15th June) on a part time basis, for 2 days per week. Whilst we are obviously so upset that we cannot have all of our children in school at the moment, we are really pleased that we are able to get our Year 4 pupils back so that we can help to support them with their transition to middle school - We really recognise how important this is for our whole community.

It is important to mention that under the current social distancing and 'bubble group' guidelines from the government, from Monday 15th June, we are at absolute capacity, as all of our staff will be allocated to 'bubble groups'. We have no other staff left to take any additional children and the only spaces in school which are not being used are the 2 reception classrooms. If the guidance changes at any point and we are able to extend our provision in the future, I will be the first to let you all know.

Home Learning Provision

Over the next week or two we are going to be looking at some different ways to enhance our home learning opportunities for pupils. Obviously the teachers are sending home detailed learning packs, as well as leading weekly 'Zoom' conferences with their classes, however we are looking at some different ways to facilitate some teacher feedback on the work which pupils are completing at home. This will obviously need to be manageable for the staff, who will be teaching their 'bubble groups' full time, as well as planning work for children in school and at home, but we are trying to devise a way to do this in a practicable, but also meaningful way for everyone (potentially using the 'SeeSaw' programme). More information will follow on this soon.

I hope that all of our families are doing well and staying safe.

I look forward to getting in touch next week.

Best wishes to you all.

Mr Adams

