

21/7/21

WEDNESDAY NEWS

Nº 39

Dear Parents and Carers,

The final newsletter of the school year is being written in an unexpectedly quiet and strangely empty school on the last day of the school year. Under normal circumstances, there would be an excited buzz around the classrooms and corridors today as staff and pupils look forward to the summer break, and our Year 6 pupils prepare to say farewell to Alverton School for the last time.

Of course, we have not had normal circumstances for what seems like a very long time now. As with all aspects of our lives, the impact of the Covid pandemic has been keenly felt in schools, and has once again led to a year of disruption and adaptation for pupils, parents and staff. We have been so proud of the way that our children and parents have responded to the changes in school, and are equally proud of the flexibility and creativity that staff have shown in trying to make the year as normal and enjoyable as possible for our pupils. This was particularly impressive during the Spring Term lockdown and I am grateful to everyone on our staff and in our community who ensured that the school remained open for those whose parents are key workers etc whilst ensuring that the home learning provision was strong.

Having been relatively fortunate in Cornwall in terms of the impact of Covid during the first year of the pandemic, this situation has certainly changed since the summer half-term week and the G7 Summit as cases have risen dramatically and the impact of the virus is being felt across the county. In many ways, a combination of rising numbers of cases in Cornwall and an easing of the restrictions over the past few weeks have made it much more likely that local schools will need to close bubbles.

That said, we are devastated that our final few days in school have been wiped out for so many pupils and staff by the need to close all of the Key Stage 1 and 2 classes. This is particularly disappointing for our Year 6 children who were planning their final leavers activities, and the chance to say goodbye to friends and staff whom many of them have known for seven or eight years. As a school I believe that there is very little more we could have done to prevent this, and the measures we have put in place since March 2020 have been as effective as they could be.

On a more positive note, we are planning a Leavers Event for our wonderful Year 6 children which will take place at school during the holiday. This will give the children a chance to say their goodbyes and to celebrate their achievements over so many years.

We are of course already planning for the Autumn Term, and are following the latest DfE expectations with regard to the start of the new term in September. We are enclosing an update for all parents which explains how the school will operate from the beginning of next term. I would urge all parents to read this please. We are assuming that many, but not all, of the restrictions will be lifted when the children return and this is reflected in the information attached; many sections are taken direct from the DfE guidance documents and links to the relevant guidance are included. Please bear in mind, however, that if the situation regarding Covid becomes more acute either locally or nationally we may have to revise this guidance at short notice.

We are certainly looking forward to starting the new school year under less restricted circumstances, and will hopefully be able to provide our children with a return to the opportunities and community feel that we all took for granted until relatively recently.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support for the school and I wish all of our families a very happy and safe summer break.

Best wishes,

Martin Higgs  
Headteacher

## Reminder

School opens for the Autumn term on **Tuesday 7th September**. Have a lovely summer holiday.