***Article 28 – every child has the right to an education***

***Article 19 – every child has the right to be safe***

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware school finishes tomorrow for Years R, 1 and 6 and for the vulnerable children and key worker’s children on Friday morning.

To say it has been a strange few months would be an understatement. I’ve never known anything quite like this. I’m sorry the children didn’t manage to have the school year they should have and it makes me sad that so many of our children have been away from school since March 20th. I look forward to September when I, along with the staff, will be able to welcome your children back to school. We can’t wait for the rooms to be filled with laughter and for school to get back to some sort of normality.

Even though it’s been the strangest of years, the 2 terms we all had together were full of fun and fantastic learning. Our children took part in workshops in school, they travelled to Manchester Central Library, Dewa Roman Experience (Chester), the Air Raid shelters, Manchester Art Gallery and Ghyll Head.

Children also took part in a range of clubs including; Multi-Skills, Street Dance, Football, African Drumming, Tennis, Basketball, Netball, Spanish, Crafts, Let’s Get Cooking, Dodgeball and Bikeability.

Children took over the school in September with Take Over Day.

We had our very successful OFSTED inspection in December and our gorgeous KS1 and EYFS made us feel warm and fuzzy with their Christmas performances.

Our wonderful Year 6 children will be leaving us this year. It’s not the end any of us would have wanted for their primary school but knowing they are happy, safe and looking forward to moving on to high school makes them leaving a little easier. This year our Year 6 are moving on to Manchester Communications Academy, Co Op Failsworth, Our Lady’s, St Matthews, St Peter’s, The East Manchester Academy, Wright Robinson’s, Lostock and Abraham Moss.

As we come to the end of the year, we say goodbye to Miss Owens, Mr Salas, Miss Howarth, Miss Gwynne and Mr Harasiwka. They have worked hard this past year and as they move on to the next stage of their careers, I know you will join me in wishing them well. It also makes me quite sad to say goodbye to wonderful Mr Gibaut. He joined us 6 years ago and during his time with us he has strived to do the very best for the children and the St Augustine’s family. He will be moving on to a bigger deputy headship and I know he will be fab!

36 of our fantastic children finished school on the 20th March with 100% attendance! Wow! Well done to them and to you for ensuring they come to school every day.

I’m sure you’ll agree, even though we only had 2 full terms in school, they were jam packed!

Looking forward to September, I know you will still have some concerns and worries about the children return to school, but please rest assured, we will do our absolute best to keep your child safe in school. As such, there will be 2 teacher training days at the start of the year and children will be welcomed back on **Thursday 3rd September 2020**.

There will be a staggered start and end for the children. If your child is in **Reception, Year 2, Year 4 or Year 6, they will be in group A. They will start school at 8.40 and they will need to be picked up from school at 3.10.**

If your child is in **Nursery, Year 1, Year 3 or Year 5, they will be in group B and school will start at 9am for them, finishing at 3.30**.

All children need to be in full school uniform with sensible black shoes. On the days they have PE, the children can come to school in their PE kit so they do not need to get changed. The class teachers will write to you in September with more on timetables.

As we won’t be sending reading books home initially, the children do not need to bring a bag to school (unless it’s their packed lunch) All children will be given a new stationary pack too so please don’t send any pencils case in either.

As Manchester Fayre, our lunch providers, are also observing social distancing, lunch will be in the form of a grab bag. For children entitled to free school meals and for those having a paid school dinner, lunch will consist of a sandwich, savoury snack, fruit, yogurt and a drink.

As stated in my previous letter, there will only be Breakfast Club for working parents and carers. Some of you have requested places as you are students. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to offer your child a place at Breakfast Club as yet. We will of course monitor the situation and keep you informed of any changes.

On their arrival all children, other than those attending Breakfast Club, should line up outside the fire door to their new classroom. The children will enter and exit the building from this door.

Can parents and carers of children in the EYFS, wait with their children at the EYFS gate until the staff let you in. This has worked really well over the past few weeks and we want to continue it in September.

In order to ensure social distancing of parents and carers at both the start and end of the day, I would like the EYFS parents and carers to use the entrance on Redbrook Avenue. As soon as you enter the pedestrian gate, the EYFS entrance in directly on your right.

Please can all other parents wait in the ‘parent zone’ outside their child’s classroom; remembering to keep your distance and be at least a metre apart from others. This will also be important at the end of the school day and I ask that all parents and carers leave the school grounds promptly.

All outdoor play equipment will be out of use and is strictly for use by the children within school hours.

We will continue to limit the visitors to school so if you need to speak to any staff, or myself, please ring the school and we will arrange to have a telephone discussion with you.

I appreciate there is a lot to take in, therefore I will write to you again towards the end of the summer holidays, just to remind you of the most important things.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors, can I wish you a very happy and relaxing summer break. I look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren) back on Thursday 3rd September 2020 at their allocated time.

If you have any queries, concerns or would just like to have a chat, please call to make an appointment with me.

Very best wishes as always

Ms Shah

Headteacher