



Comper Foundation Stage School

5 June 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I do hope you and your family are safe and well. A really big **thank-you** for your understanding and support in these challenging times. You have informally and individually asked some very reasonable questions over the last few days, including:

Is Comper now open?

- Comper now open, but only for Reception children and only if booked

What provision is there for the Reception children?

- Mangoes on Mondays & Tuesdays: all day, including free lunch & healthy snacks
- Strawberries on Thursdays & Fridays: all day, including free lunch etc
- School closed for deep clean every Wednesday

How many children attended in the first week?

- 15 out of 30 on both days for Mango Class (50%)
- 17 out of 30 in Strawberries (56%) on both days



Everyone welcome

Together is better- for all; safe & sound

How is the Reception provision organised to make it safe and sound?

- **Places in Reception must be applied for** so that we can be sure we have sufficient staff to meet the children's needs
- Staggered start & end of day to make smaller groups
- Separate entry/exit routes
- Two separate 'hubs' of half of each class: one in hall, other in workshop
- Own toilets/cloakroom for each hub
- Own outside area for each hub
- Own staff of at least three for each hub, so that the group can sub-divide into small 'bubbles' of 3 or 4 children with their adult
- 'Housekeeper' to support each hub
- Lots of outdoors, natural and well-being led experiences
- Support & encouragement to promote understanding and good practices

How has the first week gone?

- We think it went well for the children and the staff.
- Understandably we were all a bit nervous (and excited); hard work, but rewarding
- No apparent problems and our parents seem happy with things- ask each other!



The new way into school

Do you have plans to re-open any other parts of Comper?

- No plans at present to open Nursery, but we will make a final decision by Wednesday 10 June about a possible, partial opening, and let those parents who have already expressed an interest know about this
- Currently, no plans to open Day Care (Apple); staff currently furloughed
- Currently, no plans to open for Breakfast, After School Club or Summer Holiday provision

Together is better- for all; safe & sound

What are the main reasons why only Reception is open?

- We are only prepared to open at all during the Covid-19 pandemic if we assess the provision as being safe for children, staff and others
- In the first instance, and given the newness of this experience, we judged it best to see how things went for Reception before deciding if we could extend this to younger children
- We started with Reception because, by virtue of their age and stage of development, it is easier to meet their needs without compromising their well-being & safety

How are the staff getting on?

- The staff, as always, are **magnificent**.
- Many of them are unable to be in work for lots of different reasons. Many of them are furloughed. However, every one of them is helping as best as they can
- We are committed to doing all we can for your children without unduly putting anyone at risk

Is there anything we can do to help the school?

- We have already had lots of offers of help; thank-you.
- We would love items for our gardens- how about little watering cans, plants, seeds, compost etc
- Continue to keep in touch, let us have your questions & ideas, and let us know if we can help

Thanks & best wishes

Chris and staff team

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Time to dig over and start again in the old allotment