Dear Parents and Carers of children in Nursery (Apple class),

WIDER OPENING OF MAYFIELD UPDATE

I last wrote to you a week ago. Since then there has been much planning, risk assessing and discussion with Governors, the Local Authority and my Senior Leadership Team.

I am now in a position, after conducting a thorough risk assessment, to inform you of Mayfield’s capacity to open more widely to other year groups.

The Government have stated in their guidance, that they would like schools to open more widely to years 1, 6, Nursery and Reception. When considering this guidance schools are required to undertake a risk assessment that supports their decision making. In completing the risk assessment I looked at a number of factors including:

- The transition requirements for the particular year group and whether these would be able to take place in September
- The staff available who are not shielding.
- The staffing required to support the return to school for the year group.
- The likelihood that the children would be able to follow and keep social distancing rules.
- How many children can fit into a class whilst maintaining social distancing rules.
- The available space we have in school.
- Are there enough staff to teach the different groups?
- What staffing capacity and room space is available when other groups of children, designated by the Government, also return to school.

I reached the decision that Year 6 would be the first year group for Mayfield to open more widely to. Year 6 will be invited to return to school on Monday 15th June.

In addition to year 6 returning to school, Mayfield will still need to provide childcare for key worker children (of which there are growing numbers), children with an Education and Health Care Plan and, in time, Vulnerable groups.
Once all these groups of children are back at Mayfield, the school does not have the resources to invite other year groups back before September. There are no more classrooms and no staff left to work with the children. I am so sorry. Unless there is a significant change in Government advice and scientific evidence, your child will not be able to return to school until September.

I am aware that many of our Nursery children will be starting Reception class at Mayfield in the autumn term. To support transition into the reception classes, the staff will be organising small induction meetings for you and your child. More information will be sent to you shortly about the date and time of these sessions.

Staff will do their best endeavours to continue to direct you to the Oak Academy materials on a daily basis but there may be reduced communication and contact from teachers on the platform as teachers will be teaching all day. The staff who are shielding will take on this responsibility. We will also provide hard copies of work if you do not have access to the online materials.

I really do hope that over the summer break, the picture, locally, globally and for the UK really improves so that Mayfield is able to welcome back every child, every family in September. I will keep you updated with the plans as they are formed based on the latest scientific research and Government guidance.

Thank you so much for continuing to work with your child at home. I recognise that it is not easy and I am so sad that I am unable, at this point, to welcome back more children. If the Government advice changes, we will respond appropriately to this and keep you informed of each step.

In the meantime, the staff and I hope that you all remain safe and well. We look forward to seeing you again as soon as we can. We miss you all very much!

Kindest regards

Belinda Ewart
Head teacher