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Dear Parents,

It has been a little while since I wrote to you. Much of my time has been devoted to bringing more children back in to school. This has been incredibly time consuming and complicated but I have to say, it's all been worth it. School just isn't school without children and it's been wonderful to see more and more children and parents each week. As teachers we are just not 'wired up' for all this working from home, remote-learning business and we much prefer the 'old normal', none of this 'new normal'!

However, I know this is of no solace to those of you who have not been able to send your children back in. All I can say is that we are missing you and can't wait for things to keep improving.

Last week the government announced that all children will return to school in September. I cannot tell you how relieved and happy we all are about this. As much as we would like it to, it doesn't mean we can necessarily presume that everything will return to normal. There will undoubtedly be many rules and regulations which we will be expected to work around. We are expecting this information to come into schools in the next week or so, and we will also need to wait for the directive from DCC too. The Senior Leadership Team and I have pre-empted some of these possible September scenarios and work has already begun on considering how this will impact the groups, the staff, the timetable and the teaching spaces in school.

I am aware that at about this point in the year you are usually informed about which class your child will be placed in for the next year. As we don't know yet what the government guidance will contain, we are currently unable to give you details as to what the class structure will look like across the school, so therefore you will find out much later than normal about your child's new class. We will let you know as soon as we possibly can.

I can inform you that staffing will change a little in September. Mrs Kennedy will be leaving Longstone to begin a full-time position as a Year 2 teacher in a Sheffield school. She will be missed of course, and many children will not have chance to say a 'proper' good-bye, but I would like to thank her for all of her hard work during her 2 years at Longstone School and wish her well in her new job. Miss Bell will increase her teaching commitment to 4 days in the Autumn term and Mrs Reeves will make up the additional day. This is a temporary arrangement until a new job-share arrangement can be put in place during slightly more 'normal' circumstances.

As you already know, I too will be leaving as planned at the end of this term. The governors have been working for some weeks on an interim headship arrangement until a permanent replacement can be recruited, and they shall be in touch with you very shortly with details about this.

Finally, the government also announced that from July 4th social distancing will change further; where 2m can be maintained we must do so but otherwise, a 1m+ distance should be observed. Currently, the situation in school remains the same unless we are told otherwise, and our groups all remain at full capacity.

As always, I hope you are coping well at home, despite the fact that the online learning situation has well and truly lost its lustre by now! We are still loving all the work that the children are submitting. It puts a smile on all of our faces, so well done for all of your efforts at home.

All my very best wishes to you and your family, and I shall be in touch again shortly as I know more,

Mrs G. Harvey