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Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents,

We were really looking forward to being allowed to reinstate a number of whole school events this half term including a parent/child sponsored run, school sports day & family picnic, Exhibition of Learning, and or course, our very popular Summer Social. Sadly, due to the easing of COVID -19 restrictions being pushed back until July 19th, we have received further guidance form the DFE and West Sussex County Council that disappointingly means we have to make a number of changes to these planned events.

Please see below an extract from a letter from Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills

This guidance indicates that schools should still be maintaining their learning bubbles and should not be running larger whole school events which bring large numbers of children and parents together. We have advised schools for the last month that, although they could begin to plan for larger whole school events including sports days and summer fairs, these would need to be postponed or cancelled if the Government changed its timeline for easing the final stages of lockdown. This has now happened and we are therefore asking schools not to run such whole school events until at least 19 July. In addition to the impact on whole school events, we have advised that schools planning transition days from primary to secondary schools for 7 July, should postpone these transition events. We are asking that schools plan their transition days to run on Wednesday 21 July during the last week of term and following the final easing of lockdown on 19 July. Whilst I am sure that there will be disappointment in the delay, it is essential that the excellent work of our schools over this last year in managing safety and therefore securing high levels of attendance, is not put at risk. The rate of transmission is rising and it is crucial that we do all we can to minimise the risk. Preparing for an effective transition as children move schools is very important and I know that schools will be working together to ensure that the process is managed carefully'.

Sports Day

In line with this latest guidance, I am sure you will understand that we are sadly not able to invite parents to our sports day on 13th July. We have carefully risk assessed the event and remain confident that we can still run a sports day in line with regulations but, this year, it will take a different form with children competing against one another in their bubbles/classes rather than competing with children across the school. On **Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th July** please can children come to school in their PE kits.

Transition

Year 6 parents will have received information directly from their child's new secondary school regarding revised transition events. At Lavant we are planning that all children will have the opportunity to meet in their new classes on the afternoon of **Wednesday 21**st **July.**

















Due to clashes with rescheduled secondary school meetings, our Year 6 Leavers Party will now be held **on Monday 19th July.** We are still planning to hold our Leavers service on **Thursday 22nd July at 9:10am**

Whole School Learning Journey and Exhibition.

This week the children have embarked on a new learning journey exploring celebrations around the world with each class focusing on a different country and celebration.

Wren Class	Around the world	Hot Air Balloon Festivals
Robin Class	Thailand	The Fire Boat Festival
Woodpecker Class	Brazil	Mardi Gras
Pheasant Class	France	International Kite Festival

Although we are no longer able to hold a large whole school exhibition, each class will be inviting parents (in groups of no more than 30) for an open-air, socially distanced meet to enable children to share their learning with their parents. More information regarding these events, and how parents can book a slot, will follow next week.

Our Sponsored fun run and summer social are sadly postponed this term but we are aiming to reschedule them after the summer break.

We hope you understand the difficult decisions we have had to make to ensure we continue to work within national and local guidelines, and are doing all we can to keep everyone safe. It definitely feels that we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to resuming business as usual on our return to school in September.

If you would like to discuss anything in more detail, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

With very best wishes,

Adrian King