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Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Thursday it was exactly 3 months since the government announced lockdown and the closure of schools in the UK. The last three months have been an extremely intensive period. I am very proud to be the head of the Sunflower Federation as it has been a privilege to work with such amazing, flexible and committed staff. I am also appreciative of you the parents and carers, who have continuously expressed your support at this unprecedented time.

We are heading towards the end of this exceptional academic year and our planning for the academic year, 2020-21 has started. I would like to share some updates and points of view with you.

1. July provision
 - Many of you have already informed us about your thoughts concerning your child's schooling for July 6th to 21st July (2 1/2 weeks). Thank you for that! **If you require school provision in July please inform admin in both schools by the end of this week e.g. by Friday 26th June.**
 - The priority continues to be key workers' children and those who are extremely vulnerable. However we endeavour to provide provision for all students whose parents would like them to attend school.
 - Please note that the vast majority of school placements will be on a part time basis. This is because of the pandemic health and safety measures and known staffing challenges.
2. End of year reports
 - Currently teachers are preparing the students' end of year reports that will be sent out in July
3. September class lists will be sent out in July
4. New staff
 - We have appointed two new teachers; Annabel Rossiter to Breakspeare School and Zarqa Aslam to Meadow Wood School. Annabel is an experienced mainstream teacher who is now making a career change to teach in our special school setting. Zaqua is a newly qualified teacher whose ambition is to develop her skills at the beginning of her teaching career in a special school. We wish them both a warm welcome to our schools!
 - We are also in the process of appointing new LSAs to both schools.
5. Student leavers
 - We have 4 students leaving Breakspeare in July; Joshua, Charlie, Orla and Dajhaneer are making the transition to different colleges. At Meadow Wood we will say 'good bye' to Annie who will start at Breakspeare and Miles who will move to Lonsdale. The staff are busy planning leavers' celebrations that will take a different form this year. We wish all the best for all our students in their new destinations! We will miss you.

6. September provision

- We will have 13 new students at Breakspeare and 3 at Meadow Wood – student numbers at Breakspeare will be 94 and at Meadow Wood it will be 34 for next academic year: a total of 128 students in 15 classes
- When writing this we know that the government has given directions for all schools to be open for all students in September. However we are waiting for further guidance in the coming weeks.
- Particularly at Breakspeare the start of the new term will be compromised because of the building work of our new 3 classroom unit. Although Breakspeare's new unit is making good progress the disturbance in school life will be significant for the 1st half of the autumn term. For example we need to temporarily relocate four classes to other rooms. This means that the main building will be very busy and crowded and the students' classroom space limited. The staff room and music room will be temporary classrooms and staff breaks will be organised in the dining hall. I am concerned about our resources e.g. limited physical space to accommodate all students in school and not knowing the September Covid-19 guidance.
- Many parents have already contacted us about autumn provision and the required phased return to school for their child – this is of course possible.
- The autumn term curriculum will be a 'recovery curriculum' focusing on socio-emotional wellbeing, communication and social skills.

7. Black Lives Matter Movement

- It has been most upsetting to observe the recent events due to unrelenting racial injustices. Systemic racism is a problem that must be addressed everywhere.
- The Sunflower Federation categorically deplores systemic racism. We are committed to stand together with our BAME families and colleagues to safeguard everybody's right to equal opportunities in life and education.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have concerns or questions about your child's wellbeing and schooling. We are here to support and help you.

Thank you for your continued support.
Very best wishes,
Merja

Useful links

Safe working in schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care>

Guidance for parents and carers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>