



## Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

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13 January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

Following feedback on the current school provision I have been asked to write to you by the governors to provide some context around the current arrangements.

As you know in these uncertain times, we are having to deliver teaching both in person and remotely, which is adding additional pressure on the resources of the school. To give you an idea, we have just one full time teacher in Years 1 to 6 with the other three teachers being on part time arrangements. Whilst this works well in normal times, for the financial resources available it is undoubtedly being challenged currently.

At the time of writing we are providing education to 35% of our pupils in school during the school week which, due to the change in key workers guidance, is significantly higher than in the previous lockdown. Converting teaching plans so they work for virtual and in person lessons along with other administration is taking on average for each class an additional 10 hours preparation time each week to complete. Finally, all this is being completed with 25% less teachers in school due to unavoidable absence. This context is not provided to illicit sympathy but rather to transparently show the current challenges which the staff are overcoming to continue to provide education to our children.

As you may know we are continuing to be ambitious and trying to meet the needs of our school community by starting live interactions this week and will continually review what else is possible whilst balancing workload. The benefits of being a small village school also create the challenges and, as we have found from discussions with other larger schools, having more staff is what is enabling more live virtual interaction to be possible. What is also clear from discussions with other similar sized primary schools is that our provision is on a par or slightly ahead of what others are arranging.

So, how you can help:

- Please be patient: the school will respond to requests, but this may take longer and not everything will be possible currently
- Please be considerate: Places in school for critical worker children are finite and we would ask that you only take up a place if absolutely necessary. As a community we must ensure that there is space for our healthcare workers children and other vital roles that are actively helping us fight the pandemic.
- Please be supportive: The school has already used 50% of its small reserves to continue to ensure that classes can continue, and it is unclear how much, if any, will be recoverable from Government. When we can start fundraising again please get involved.

Finally, the governors would like to recognise and thank Mrs Slater and all the staff for the additional effort, hours and resilience provided to ensure that the education of our children continues.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Mulcahy'.

Gareth Mulcahy  
Chair of Governors