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Dear Parents,

This week St Peter's has felt just a little bit more like St Peter's! We have 7 bubbles of children in school every day, four for Year 6 and three for our Key Worker families. It has been lovely seeing and hearing children working and playing in school again.

A big thank you to all our staff who have made the week so successful, our teachers and TAs who have supported the bubbles, our fantastic music, sport, art, dance and drama teachers who have helped make the day feel so much like a normal day at St Peter's, our staff who are working so hard at home to provide the home learning activities and support for most of our children who are still learning at home, and of course to our lovely office and premises teams who help make it all work so smoothly.

I am sure that you will all have seen the announcement this week that the government have confirmed the obvious, that the other year groups will not be returning to school this school year. To be honest, this was never a realistic possibility whilst we need to keep the groups small and distanced – I don't know a school in the country that has more than twice the number of classrooms and teachers as they do classes of children! This means it is now more important than ever that children are accessing the work we are providing for them at home – as most children will not have been in school for six months by the time they return.

What I felt was the most important part of this week's announcement, both in terms of being hopeful and as something that I think is likely to actually happen, is that we can start to plan for all children returning to school in September. I know that this isn't certain, that things may well go wrong between now and then, and that there may well be some rules and restrictions in place – but I feel that a proper return in September is now both possible and likely.

And that is what St Peter's will now work towards.

For the next five weeks we will continue as we are – providing home learning for year groups from Year 2 to Year 6 and providing Key Worker and Year 6 bubbles in school. We will then close the school to children one week early, on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>. This will allow me to bring all staff back together into school and prepare to welcome all our children back to St Peter's in September.

There is a lot that we will need to do in that week - moving furniture back into the classrooms so we can teach 30 children again, taking down and putting up displays, having transition meetings so teachers can pass on important information to the new teacher and, really importantly, planning a curriculum that will support each child as they return to school after such a long break. For each year group we will need to look at what key areas of learning have been missed during the school closure and plan the best way to teach them whilst also recognising the social and emotional support that will also need to be provided as the children are reintroduced to school, routines, friends and just being part of a larger group of children.

We will continue to communicate with you as we go through the term. There is our weekly newsletter that I know so many of you enjoy reading, frequent updates on our website and facebook page, there will be more information from me as and when we find out about the government's plans, and of course there will be important things like the end of year reports and the exciting news about class teachers for next year!

But for now – stay safe,

Mr Hunter-Whitehouse

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*  
John 3v16



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