

Faringdon Infant School

Part of the Faringdon Learning Trust

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Future of Faringdon; Including all; Supporting everyone to grow

Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sports Days 2021

We have had a number of questions about sports day and the school's decision not to invite parents to watch this year. I thought it would be useful to outline to you our thinking on this.

First and foremost, we are absolutely committed to making the final four weeks of term as safe as possible in order to preserve everyone's Summer holiday. We know, from many conversations with parents and children, how important it is that we all have a more normal Summer, where we can take our holidays, see our families and travel safely. We have made it through the last 18 months with no closures other than the national school closures required by Government, and we would love to see out the year this way so that no one begins the Summer break unwell or having to self-isolate and compromise their plans.

As a result, we are proceeding with the caution advised by Oxfordshire County Council for the remaining weeks of term, and avoiding larger gatherings where there is greater exposure. In order to invite parents to sports day within the current guidance, we would need sufficient space for three groups of 30 adults to socially distance at 2m from one another within their group, and to be completely separate from the other two groups, as well as enough remaining space for the children to undertake their sports. This is not something we feel that we can safely achieve, and without this, we would be culpable for any associated risks. In the worst case scenario, we could be responsible for an outbreak of COVID 19 which has a significantly detrimental effect on the remaining end of term at school and the start of the Summer holiday.

We understand and share your frustration that we still find ourselves with restrictions in place at the end of another academic year. None of us would have believed that we would find ourselves in this position another year on. As an organisation, we have had, and continue to have many difficult decisions to make but will always be guided by what we feel is in the best interest of the children. We intend to film our sports sessions and photograph children competing and celebrating their achievements to share with our families.

We feel strongly that every member of the community here at school has worked tirelessly through the last incredibly difficult two years, continually trying to ensure that we strike a balance between offering educational opportunity, pastoral support, and an outlook of optimism and kindness. We would love to feel that our amazing community can continue to support us to work with absolute commitment to keeping children in school for the remaining 4 weeks so that no child misses out on the other enrichment activities which are planned, and then allowing every child, family and staff member a wonderful Summer break.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Robins and the FIS Staff