Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the transition for your child. We very much hope that the governments aim of welcoming all children back into school in September is sustained and we look forward to working with you and your child moving forward.

I hope you appreciate and understand that there is still a lot of uncertainty for schools. Whilst I am writing to you with an indicator of our intentions there is clearly a lot that could require amendment and I hope you will support us with this as and when these directives come.

We are currently working very hard on plans for our ‘recovery curriculum’ for all children. This will be our focus at the start of term and aims to support the children to manage their emotions after this time of ‘loss’, to ensure they feel they ‘belong’ at NJS through positive relationships with others and to develop their skills for following routines in school.

I apologise for the lengthy details that follow however we hope it will help everyone in our school family to understand our plans for transition a little more…

Current Year 6:

Year 6 children should have received communication from their secondary school. We have had conversations with secondary colleagues and handed over some information about the children. Of course, over the coming weeks and in September if this is benenficial to Secondary colleagues and the children, we will continue to work with them to support transition.

We have also been able to offer EVERY Year 6 child who has wanted to return to school a place in school! This is very beneficial to transition: teachers are able to support the children with their understanding of what to expect in their next stage of education and also to help their emotional wellbeing so they have the resilience to cope with the change ahead.

Put Thursday 16th July in your diary! More details to follow about the format this will take however this will still be ‘NJS Leavers Day’ and we have some ideas to make this special for you. You will of course be receiving your leavers jumper and we are looking to produce a leavers book…. Please watch the website for more details of what we need you to do and when!

Current Year 2:

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to Newport CE Junior School. The staff are really excited about meeting you in person and starting your junior school journey with us. We always have and always will work very closely with the team at Newport Infant School and this will benefit the transition for your children; staff will have communicated a lot of information between each other which will help your child to settle with us. If guidance allows the Newport Infant School team are keen to visit your children in September (ideally on their first day) to help them to settle into their new classes. We will of course confirm whether this is possible nearer the time.

We hope you all received a letter from us back in May recommending you follow us on Facebook, You Tube and subscribe to our newsletters on our website. If you haven’t already please do this as this is how you will be kept updated with the latest messages from us.

Shortly you will receive a ‘welcome pack’ from us in the post which will contain lots of useful information to help you to prepare for September. Your child’s new class teacher will also be emailing you some information about them and your child’s new classroom and there will be an ‘All About Me’ sheet for your child to return to us. We are looking to host online meetings for your child with their Newport Infant School teacher and Newport CE Junior teacher over the next couple of weeks: you will be emailed directly with information about this opportunity.

In collaboration Newport Infant School and ourselves have made the decision to keep the current Year 2 classes together. We hope that you appreciate the benefits this decision will bring:

\*children will know who they are in a class with which will remove some uncertainty ahead of their return.

\*sharing of information between school staff will be easier bearing in mind they cannot meet each other or yourselves face to face.

Therefore Owl class will be taught by Mr Parker, Deer class by Mr Butler and Badger class by Miss Watson. They are all very excited to be working with you.

Current Year 3, 4 and 5:

Children in our current Year 3, 4 and 5 cohorts would usually have spent two days with their new teachers at the end of June: this year that won’t be possible. We of course appreciate that this is far from ideal and is disappointing that children may not have the opportunity to say ‘good bye’ to their current teacher as well as to be introduced to their new. Within the staff team we will of course ensure that information is passed between teachers and the staff will communicate throughout the coming weeks and months to enable as smooth a transition as possible under the circumstances. We will hold, when guidance allows, a ‘move down’ day when all children will be able to spend time with their previous class teacher.

Over the next couple of weeks your new class teacher will email you with information about themselves and your new classroom and there will be an ‘All About Me’ sheet for you to complete and return to them. We are also hoping to arrange an online meeting for the children with their current and new class teacher: more information to follow.

As you will be aware it is a tradition at NJS that each academic year we mix up the class groups. We have made the difficult decision to leave the current class groups together for the 2020/21 academic year. We are very aware this will be disappointing for some children who may have liked to have worked with different children. However we hope that you appreciate the benefits this decision will bring:

\*children will know who they are in a class with which will remove some uncertainty ahead of their return.

\*sharing of information between school staff will be easier bearing in mind they cannot meet each other or yourselves face to face.

Therefore in September:

Mr Butler’s class (3B) will be taught by Mrs Jukes (4NJ)

Miss Watson’s class (3W) will be taught by Miss Jones (4J)

Mr Parker’s class (3P) will be taught by Mrs Sisson and Mrs Kucynszka (4S)

Mrs Jukes’ class (4NJ) will be taught by Mr Moody (5M)

Miss Jones’ class (4J) will be taught by Miss Hardy (5H)

Mrs Sisson and Mrs Kucynszka’s class (4S) will be taught by Mr Lawson (5L)

Mr Moody’s class (5M) will be taught by Mr Jones (6J)

Miss Hardy’s class (5H) will be taught by Miss Sherry (6S)

Mr Lawson’s class (5L) will be taught by Mrs Kerr (6K)

We thank you for your support with these decisions at this unprecedented time. We really can’t wait for our school family to be back together.

Take care

Mrs Moody