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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well in these tricky times.

As we approach the final two weeks of term, and following the government's 'relaxing' of lockdown from this weekend, I wanted to update you with what is going on at Oakworth.

Since the announcement, the leaders of the Bronte Academy Trust have been looking to the needs of their individual schools and how they will proceed from the week beginning 6th July.

Our mission at Oakworth has always been to serve our community, whilst keeping everyone safe, which we have done throughout this time to the very best of our ability. Since we returned on the 1st June, we have had a growing demand for places from our families in a variety of situations and school has been working at full capacity. From next week, following the lockdown and social distancing restrictions easing slightly, we have been able to increase the number of children we can take in school, supporting our families, whilst meeting the criteria in our risk assessments. Because of the demand, we will still however not be able to admit any full year groups into school.

Transition arrangements this year are clearly very different to usual. I know you have all received an email from your child's new class teacher and we are very much looking forward to our whole school 'Wizard of Oz' unit in September! Our website is currently being updated to include photographs of all the staff which you can look at with your children to support them with transition. The EYFS and Year 6 teams, as well as the nurture staff, have been working tirelessly to ensure that our children coming into us for the first time, or leaving us to go to secondary school, are supported in the best way possible. I myself have had the opportunity to speak to all our brand new parents joining us in September and plan to speak to each and every Year 6 child before we close for summer to wish them well for their futures. I still sometimes can't believe that we aren't currently rehearsing 'Joseph' for an audience packed hall although we are all hoping to see them again for their 'prom' as soon as we are able to.

In terms of September, we have just received the outlined government guidance and the coming days will be spent formulating a plan for September which we will be sharing with you as soon as we are able to do so. I know you, like all of us here, have everything crossed for a return to normality.

I thank you as always for all your patience and support.

Keep safe and best wishes.

Miss Beki Vargassoff