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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the situation in Cheddar Grove regarding being able to welcome back children in more year groups before the end of this term.

As you know, we have been operating a reduced provision since the start of lockdown, initially for key workers' children and those deemed to be vulnerable. Since 8th June we have been pleased to widen this provision to include children in the priority year groups identified by the government – Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Recently the Department for Education has said that schools can bring back children in other year groups if they have the capacity to do so, whilst maintaining the strict measures that are in place to minimise the risk of transmission.

We have looked very carefully at whether this is possible in our schools and regrettably have come to the conclusion that it is not. This is because we do not have the capacity to do this, either in terms of members of staff or available space. Children have to be taught in classes of no more than 15, staff cannot work with different groups of children and teaching spaces and equipment have to be cleaned thoroughly before being used by a different group of children. You will also be aware that we do not have a full complement of staff as some colleagues are shielding and working from home.

I realise this will be disappointing news but hope you will appreciate why this is the case and can assure you we have considered it very carefully. This will mean that children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to learn from home, using Seesaw, and we will continue to ensure that this provision is of a high quality.

We are anticipating that all children will return to school in September and are expecting further guidance on this from the Department for Education next week. We will update you on the position, and our planning, as soon as we are able to do so.

We really miss having all the children in school and are very excited about September when we hope, and expect, we will all be back together again.

In the meantime we would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Jeffery
Headteacher