

14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

The Government has announced that primary schools could begin to reopen on June 1<sup>st</sup> if it is safe to do so.

Initially the year groups suggested are Year R, Year One and Year Six, which is why I am writing to you in the first instance.

Children returning to school will be allocated a group with no more than 15 children in it. Each group will have two members of staff. Where possible these will be familiar adults.

The children will stay in these groups until the end of term. They will eat with their group, in their classroom and have allocated play times – again with their group. The idea behind these groups is that they will be isolated from the other groups and should anyone within the group show signs of Covid-19 then the whole group would need to be isolated for 14 days. Children will be allocated their own desk and their own equipment. We will give you more details nearer the time but please be assured the school is implementing all the protective measures set out by the Government, to our best ability.

I cannot guarantee that we can maintain a 2 metre distance between children, especially those who are in Year R and Year One, although we will do our best. This is due to young children not really understanding the need to distance. We will try and reinforce this in lots of ways, as well as the importance of hand washing.

When we have an idea of numbers we will then let you know start and finish times for each group to reduce social gatherings, as stated by the Government. Parents will not be allowed to enter the schools buildings unless they have an arranged appointment, this includes the school office. Correspondence should be by phone or email.

I have included the link from the Government for parents, which makes clear the rationale behind some of the measures that schools are taking.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I have also included the link from the government with the preventative measures that schools should take.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

I am asking you to either ring the school office or email our admin account to let us know whether you will be sending your child back to school on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This way we can move forward with our plans and put in place the social distancing measures that we need to. We also want to ensure that children are kept with a group of their friends - we know this is

going to be very different from 'normal' school so it is really important to get our plans in place as early as possible.

The curriculum offered again will not be 'normal'. This is not a return to school as the children and yourselves will know it – but we will be doing our very best to reassure children and to provide the very best opportunities we can.

We would ask that children do not wear uniform and that their clothes are clean everyday. Where possible we would also ask that they have a school lunch, which will be delivered to their classroom. This is to avoid any cross contamination from school to home on lunch boxes. If children do bring a lunch box we will have to anti-bac it on entry. The school lunches that we provide will be different to normal, to allow safe transportation around the school. They will be either a hot or cold picnic bag. In addition, children cannot bring bags or pencil cases from home, including their book bag. If they bring a PE kit on the first day then this can stay in school.

Unless you are a critical Key Worker we cannot offer any before or after school provision. This is because we have to minimise contact between the groups.

If you are a key worker and your child will attend normal (ish) school times then they can be in a group with their peers. However, you require before and after school provision, then your child will be allocated put in a Key Worker group – which will look very similar to the provision they have been part of during the last eight weeks. School will be open from 8 am until 5pm – to the children of critical Key Workers only for this extended time.

The government is proposing that all primary aged children should return to school before the summer holidays. We are currently looking into how this could be possible, as we are already using 15 of our 17 classrooms due to social distancing measures. We will be liaising with the Local Authority to seek advice on this matter, although I am sure all schools are facing this issue. We will keep you updated regarding this matter.

I apologise for the length of this letter. Again, I want to try to reassure you that school will endeavour to put all preventative measures in place, to keep your child and our staff as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Jones