

15/5/2020



Partial Return to School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well and staying safe.

I am writing today, following the guidance that has been issued so far regarding schools re-opening. Following this guidance, steps are underway in school to plan for the return of some children after the May half term. We have been asked to extend the number of pupils we have in school by welcoming back Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. Further guidance followed, extending this even further to our Nursery children, whilst also continuing to look after the children already identified as 'children of key workers' and 'vulnerable' children. The proposed date for this new phase is Monday 1st June.

Guidance suggests that we can split children into groups of 15 maximum – however, having measured out our classrooms, I believe groups of 10-12 children per class is safer and more realistic; stagger the start and end of the day – to avoid large numbers of parents and children gathering at the same time; keep children within the same group all of the time with the same member of staff – they will not mix at lunchtimes or playtimes; stagger lunch and breaktimes; always try to maintain a 2 metre distance.

In all honesty, we will not be able to achieve social distancing in school all of the time as social distancing with children is not achievable in my experience, so there is always going to be an element of risk. However, we will endeavour to ensure that children are kept apart as much as possible.

We will also be carrying out stringent personal hygiene routines as well as ongoing enhanced procedures throughout each school day as recommended by Public Health England.

Once a clear plan has been devised, we will let you know the details. We will be contacting parents of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 by phone over the coming days to discuss the return with you.

Life in school is going to be very different for our children for the foreseeable future.

These are your children and it will be your decision whether you send them back when school partially re-opens; you will not be penalised if you don't and there will be no fines. I will absolutely understand and respect any parent's wish to keep their children safe at home.

Because of social distancing, it is likely that, should you choose to send your child into school, they may not be with their teacher; also, they may not be in their normal classroom or with all of their friends. This will all depend on numbers of children returning to school and the number of staff members being able to attend school.

It is worth noting that this proposed return date of 1st June could still change depending on infection rates and further government guidance.

At this stage, the government hope for ALL pupils to return this school year for the final month. The logistical issues for our school, if this was the case, would be huge. I am concerned at the proposed timeline and pressure on primary schools to open their doors to every child before the end of this school year. There are huge logistical and practical issues in operating a school with the restrictions that are still in place and above all else, the safety of our whole school community is paramount and anything that jeopardises this will lead to an instant review of our plans.

I will write to you again when I have more information.

Before I sign off, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all parents and carers for your impressive work playing 'teacher' at home with your children. I know it must be extremely hard for you to follow online guidance from us and to teach new concepts and ideas to your child, or even more challenging, numerous children!

On top of this, I am very aware that many of you are also trying to work from home yourselves. I take my hat off to you all.

Please only do what you can. I fully understand how challenging things can be.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

Kind Regards

Mrs H Edge: Headteacher