

15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I'm sure you are aware, the government has asked us to start planning to open school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils from WC 01.06.20. This would be a conditional opening, initially based on the government's five criteria for easing lockdown being met and scientific evidence. It would also be conditional on whether we, as a school, could make the necessary significant changes required to admit an increase in pupil numbers safely.

We have been issued some guidance on preparing to open, risk assessing our own settings and making changes to how we staff the year groups, disinfect the school and manage the risk of infection for pupils, staff and the wider community. Obviously the responsibility for opening and attempting to manage social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, access to resources means that how school would look if we did open, will be significantly different to how things were before lockdown. All aspects would have to change, from routines around drop off and collection including staggered start and end points of the school day, division of pupils into smaller groups or pods / bubbles, and the way children interact with each other and staff, to how meals are served, access to the most basic of resources and toys and the staff members who are working with each age group. Breakfast and After School Club provision will not available to these year groups at the current time.

I appreciate that among our school community there will be parents/carers who are keen for their children to return to school, and those who do not yet feel that enough is known about the virus and how it can be transmitted to consider a return to school to be a safe option for their child or family. Some of you or your children may be vulnerable and already practising strict social distancing, and some may be in the shielding group who are not leaving home at all. We want you to know that we understand your worries, that we share some of them too, and that no parents will be judged or indeed fined for not sending their child back to school at this time. **This is a decision for each family to make in their own best interests based on the information available to them.** Online learning will continue for those of you who do stay at home, however if staff are in school with the children who have returned, this may look a little different to the pattern that we have established over the last few weeks.

Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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Our provision for keyworker's children will continue as normal, as it has done throughout the Easter holidays and the coming half term.

The government have suggested that all year groups may return to school for the last month of the summer term. Planning for that will begin to due course but is not our priority at the moment.

I have discussed the proposals to open to the whole of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils with our chair of governors and teaching staff and will now start to look more closely at the organisational aspects and risk assessing. As always, the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community will inform all of the decisions that we make. To help me do this, it would be very helpful for all remaining parents and carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to let me know if they would be sending their child back to school – only these groups initially please via the on-line survey. As we have been instructed to manage pupils in 'bubbles' or 'pods' of no more than 15 pupils, this obviously has implications for staffing and accommodation of the children.

Best wishes,



Tracey Hart , Headteacher

