

19 May 2020

Dear parents,

I hope you and your families are well. I would first like to apologise for not having been able to send out an update since the 11 May. Unfortunately, the government guidelines and guidance for the potential 'phased return' for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 has been coming thick and fast over the last week and during the weekend. This has meant that plans have had to undergo changes over this time to ensure that we meet these amendments and further guidance. These have been developed alongside the staff of the school to create the best possible plan that we can, with a view to being able to open for 1 June 2020 for the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Please remember, that although we have prepared to 'partially reopen' on 1 June the decision as to whether this goes ahead will be made by the government on the 28 May 2020.

To make this work in as safe a way as possible we have had to implement a number of strategies which include (but are not exclusive to), staggered start times, staggered finish times, staggered lunch and play times, reduced class sizes to no more than 15 in a class, the re-organisation of classrooms, the distribution of age appropriate resources across the school and a focus on handwashing and respiratory hygiene throughout the day. Organisationally it has been a challenge, but we feel we have developed a system that will allow us to open. That is of course not to say that tweaks and changes will not happen to these plans over time, to address issues that come to light.

A more detailed letter is going to be sent to the parents of children from these year groups tomorrow outlining in more detail information that they will need to know. This will include what time to bring their child to school and what time to pick them up, as well as what they should be bringing with them when they return. Within this letter there will also be a link to an online form. This will allow parents, after having read the information, to make an informed decision as to whether they will in fact be sending their child to school on 1 June or not. This information will be useful to us, as it will give us an idea of how many children we can expect to have return to us on the first day back.

These are uncertain times and we have been asked to prepare to 'partially reopen' on 1 June 2020. However, I am aware that some families will choose not to send their child to school for a number of reasons. For example, because a member of the family or the child themselves fall within a high-risk category, or a member of their household is having to shield.

I am also aware that within the news there is significant discussion and debate concerning the issue of reopening, and so parents may feel that it is not yet the right time to send their child back to school. That is a decision for individual families to make, and one which we will respect.

For those families of Keyworker or vulnerable families from Years 2,3,4, and 5 who have been using the service provided by the school during 'lockdown' this will also remain in place. For those children who will not be returning to school on 1 June 2020, the weekly online work will continue to be provided by the school, for those who wish to access it.

Yours Sincerely,



Tony Head
(Principal)