

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with an update on the subject of reopening our school following the Prime Minister's announcement last week. Since we last wrote to you, schools across England have received guidance from the Government on the steps that they will need to consider ahead of reopening.

Our aim as a school is to be as open and transparent with you as we possibly can be in terms of keeping you updated with the latest information that we have. We are keen to understand what your current thoughts and feelings are on the situation in terms of whether you would be willing to send your child back once we begin a phased and gradual return to school from the first week in June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children

The safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in the school is, of course our highest priority. We are planning how to put into place the measures needed so that the school can be run safely, hygienically and with appropriate procedures in place. In order to prioritise the safety of our pupils and staff, we may not be able to accommodate all the year groups the government has identified.

The Government has stressed that all re-opening plans will depend on infection rates decreasing and it won't make its final decision on whether schools can definitely reopen until May 28th. This uncertainty makes planning difficult, but we will continue to develop our plans to welcome some children back into school – we really miss seeing them!

The Government guidance says that no more than 15 children can be in a classroom when school reopens, currently 13 in a nursery setting. We will therefore need to manage the number of pupils and staff that your children play and learn with whilst in school. To prioritise these key groups, the Government has said that siblings outside of the identified year groups will not be able to attend school. In addition, it will be important that we avoid large numbers of children and parents gathering at the beginning and end of the school day. This will probably mean we will have to stagger the times that groups arrive and leave.

In order to put the appropriate measures needed in place, we need to know how many children are going to come to school should we reopen from the first week of June. We are currently collating this information via phone calls with parents in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Once we know how many children to expect, we can then start to work out when each group can return during the summer term.

Our proposed model for a phased return is likely to be as follows:

- 3rd June onwards – Nursery
- 8th June onwards – Reception
- 15th June onwards – Y1 and Y6

I will write to you again by the beginning of next week when I can hopefully share with you specific arrangements and plans for each year group. Please do bear with us, I know that many of you will already have lots of questions, but I would ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to organise the return to school.

If your child is already attending our Community Classrooms for key worker and vulnerable children, they can continue to do so regardless of which year group they are in and we encourage them to attend. If your child has specific health vulnerabilities, they should not come to school. Further details are available [here](#).

Some parents and carers have already expressed their worries and concerns about having to send their children into school. As a school we understand and sympathise with the concerns that you have raised, and whilst we will do everything in our power to ensure social distancing measures are adhered to, it is something that we simply cannot guarantee given the nature of a school environment.

We would like to remind all parents that under the current guidance on attendance at school, it is up to you as parents and carers as to whether or not you send your child into school. No fines for non-attendance will be issued to families under the current attendance guidance that is in place.

Another concern that is worrying some of our families is that their child/ren will be missing out on learning if they do not attend. This is not the case. All children will continue to receive their home learning. This means that the learning opportunities that will be provided for our children will be the same whether they are learning from home or at school.

Whilst like you we are keen to get back to some form of normality (whatever that will look like), we must endeavour to do this in a way that has the health and safety of our children and staff at its core.

Together as a school community we have overcome many obstacles to get to where we are today, have learnt many new skills quickly in order to engage with one another and learning in a different way, and have embraced these challenges and changes wholeheartedly with the Swift resolve and community spirit that we have worked hard to cultivate over the last few years.

Please do continue to encourage your child with their home learning – we have seen such brilliant work.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter, providing us with your response and as always, for your continued support in your child's education.

Stay safe and well.

Yours,



Daniel Upfield
Principal