

15 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday of a phased plan to beat the virus and provide a road map for re-opening society. This may lead to an easing of the restrictions that have been put in place to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in relation to schools. The Department for Education has confirmed that it is asking schools in England to potentially reopen for children as of Monday 1 June. The government has said the decision will be confirmed on 28 May, based on scientific evidence on the spread of Covid-19 at the time.

I recognise that this has been a very stressful time for the children and your families. I am sure we are all looking forward to children returning to school when it is safe for this to happen, and I wanted to begin to update you on just some of the ways we are beginning to prepare for school to reopen.

As of sending this letter to you all, it is the Government intention that the school could reopen to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 – as well as continue to be open for children who are vulnerable, or those with an Education health and care plan, or the children of essential or key workers.

Our top priority is the safety of pupils, your families and our school staff. The guidance that was issued has been set based on an approach formed by The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies and follows the principles they say will keep us safe on our return to school. Some of these measures are:

- Reducing the size of classes and keeping children and adults in small groups without mixing with others
- Staggered drop offs, one-way systems, pick-ups, break times
- Increasing the frequency of cleaning and reducing the use of shared items and resources

Some useful reading about the guidance for our school reopening can be found here:

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

Also attached is a poster to share with the children and your families about some of the changes we will be implementing.

It is important for you to know that there are significant changes to every day school life for all children, for example, the size of classrooms and play areas may limit the number of children who can be accommodated safely under social distancing rules. Some of the services that children and parents are

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used to – such as school clubs or visiting our school office may not be available immediately. We will also not be able to teach every subject, and it is also quite likely that children will have a different teacher.

Based on this current guidance we are unfortunately unable to offer wrap around care until further guidance is provided. We anticipate this will change with the government's aim to have all children return to school a month prior to the end of the school year

Early next week, we will provide more detailed plans with further information on our strategy and logistics for the return of your children to our school. It would also be really helpful if you begin to discuss this letter with your children.

I want to thank you for your patience and support as the school prepares to welcome the children back during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,



Brendan Plunkett