

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. Since the governments' announcement on the reopening of schools we have been working on our plans to consider what a phased reopening of our school might look like. This is a difficult and challenging time for us all and pupil and staff safety remains our primary concern.

It has become very apparent that a phased reopening will be a long way from 'education as normal'. The government recognise that unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff so they have recommended a range of measures intended to take this into account. We have produced a detailed risk assessment that incorporates all of these measures to reduce risk and we have published this on our school website and app.

One such government measure to reduce transmission of the virus is for schools to ensure children are divided into groups of no more than 15. Depending upon the numbers of children who return to school, this will mean that children will not necessarily be with their own teacher or teaching assistant, they may not be in their own classroom and the learning environment and routines will be very different as children must not share equipment or activity areas. Children will not be able to mix with other children beyond their own small group of 15 at any point during the day including at playtimes and lunchtime.

We have made the following plans to welcome the relevant year groups back over a 3 week period:

Monday 8th June - Year 6

Monday 15th June - Year 1

Monday 22nd June - Nursery and Reception

The government are strongly encouraging pupils to attend but this is a very personal decision for each of you to make based on your own family circumstances. Please be aware that if anyone in your household (or your child) is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' and falls within the 'shielding' group then government guidance states that your children should not attend school. If your child has any long term health issues that puts them within the 'clinically vulnerable' group and they are at increased risk then you should seek medical advice regarding a possible return to school.

I hope you understand the severe restrictions and limitations that are placed upon us as professionals working within Government guidelines. I encourage you to reflect on what you feel is right for your own child and I respect everyone's personal decision at this challenging time. Please be assured that you will not be questioned or fined for non-attendance if you take the decision to keep your child at home. On-line learning will continue to be provided as an option for all year groups.

If your child is included in one of the year groups for a phased return (Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery) staff will be contacting you via Class Dojo a week before the planned return date to ask if you intend your child to return. It is important that we get an indication of numbers so we can plan staffing levels appropriately. Staff will contact Y6 parents from today to ask if your child will return from Monday 8th June and further details will then be sent out on Friday with groupings and start/finish times.

Things continue to change daily and plans that we are beginning to put in place may still change depending upon government advice, union advice and staff availability. We will keep you updated whenever we can. You may find it useful to look at the government guidance for parents and carers:

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

Thank you for your continued support for our whole school community at this time of great uncertainty and challenge.

Take care and keep well.

Mrs P Farnell