

## Reception and Nursery

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 for a phased reopening of our school. This is a difficult and challenging time for us all and pupil and staff safety remains our primary concern.

It has become apparent that a phased reopening is 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 government measure to reduce transmission of the virus is for schools to ensure children are divided into groups of no more than 15. In our own school we have found that our classrooms cannot accommodate any more than 12 children in each small group with appropriate spacing between tables. This means that any children returning to school 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 at any point during the day including at playtimes and lunchtime.

Next week around 35% of our Y1 pupils will returned to school and will settle into these new routines. We hope to be able to continue with our plan to invite Reception and Nursery children back into school from Monday 29th June and staff will be contacting you either by Class Dojo or by phone early next week to ask if your child will be returning. I know that some of you have already spoken with school staff regarding a possible return. Please be aware that the number of places we can offer is limited so an early response is appreciated.

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.

Thank you for your continued support for our whole school community at this time of great uncertainty and challenge. Mrs Glynn, Miss Brown and Mrs Ratcliffe will be in touch early next week.

Take care and keep well.

Mrs P Farnell

Headteacher