



Wednesday 13th May 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

School reopening update

Following on from Monday's newsletter, I said that I would keep you updated on the possibility of the school reopening. You may have heard Boris Johnson say that we have three weeks to plan for the opening of schools on June 1st – assuming that C19 cases do not increase.

Schools received guidance at 8pm on Monday evening, which gave us, in effect, 9 working days to put a plan in place.

Here is a link to the guidance, so you can see what measures schools are being asked to introduce:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

I have written to the parents of our Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6 parents and asked them to complete a short questionnaire so I can gauge how many children may be returning to school. Thank you to everyone who has returned this so quickly.

I appreciate that it is a difficult decision to make, especially as the virus is still with us with no sign of a vaccine. I can also understand why some parents are undecided. There is a lot of anxiety around and this is also shared by my staff.

School will be a very different place and it won't be back to normal, as, for now, normal does not exist. So, there will be no sports days or Y6 performances or summer fayres or children playing together on the playground as we can't risk the spread of any infection. I have been working with the school leadership team, Governors and taking advice from the Local Authority about how the school could re-open. I will be carrying out a risk assessment next week, when we receive one from the Local Authority and, following on from this, I will send out further information.

Please note, that we might not be ready to open the school w/c 1st June and I will only do so when I am confident that systems are in place to minimise the risk of infection for pupils, staff and the school community.

As part of the process towards getting ready, the school will close for the half term holiday w/c Monday 25th May to allow the staff to have a break before returning to school and for the cleaning team to give the whole school a further deep clean. We will be using Monday 1st June as an Inset day to finalise plans and get things ready in the event that we will reopen on Tuesday 2nd June to those

three year groups. The school will continue to provide child care for the children of key workers from the 2nd June. The list of key workers has not been updated so, even though some of you are being asked to return to work, the Local Authority is very clear that if you are not a key worker, you will have to make alternative provision.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the positive messages of support that the school and staff are receiving; I do pass them on. It is good to know that everyone's hard work is being appreciated.

I will contact you again next week, with a further update.

Stay safe,

Regards

Russell Tew

Head Teacher