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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Re possible reopening of school to more pupils in June.

As we draw to the end of another term I thought I would write to you to thank you again for all that you are doing at home, to support remote learning and to update you as best I can about what will be happening next term. This is a new and challenging landscape for all of us juggling home learning, home working and staying sane.

Feedback from the recent parental survey shows us that many of you are engaging with the home learning packs and online learning and I thank you for this. I would also like to thank you for keeping in touch with your class teacher, it is important to us that we have contact with you and your children. The photos you have been sending, which show us the exciting things you have been doing, help us not to miss them too much.

As I am sure you have seen in the news, schools may reopen on June 1st to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes to begin with, if the government thinks that it is safe. A further announcement is expected to be made next week. The government advice currently available is vague. While we will do absolutely everything we possibly can to prioritise the safety of any pupils attending school, I don't want to pretend that we can guarantee social distancing at all times in a school environment; we can't! But rest assured that we will be doing everything we can to make sure that our school is as safe as it possibly can be for children and staff.

We're creating a detailed action plan that we'll share with you as soon as possible so that you know what the school's reopening will look like in practice. Precautions we will be taking include, but are not limited to:

- Limiting the number of children in our class bubbles to no more than 15
- Staggering the start and finish time for each bubble, classes will start between 8.45 and 9.15 am and finish between 12 and 1.30pm (after lunch – there will not be a lunchtime playtime)
- Staggering playtimes so that children stay within their bubble
- Increasing cleaning across the school day and changing the chemicals we use for cleaning to include bleach
- Children having individual desks and resource packs so sharing resources is limited
- Reinforcing social distancing throughout the site (inside and outside) with floor markings in corridors and areas of high footfall, including direction markers and dividers on corridor floors
- Positioning hand sanitizer pumps by doors into and out of school and in the canteen
- Establishing a first aid room at the front of school



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- Ensuring children regularly wash their hands and follow health and safety guidance “Catch it, bin it, kill it”
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

I want to reassure you that we're not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. We will keep you updated with our preparations for making the school as safe as possible, so that you can make an informed decision. Many thanks to those who have already indicated that their child/ children will be returning, if you did not complete the survey and decide that you would like your child to return to school **you must** contact the school office. Plans being put together at present are based on numbers from the survey – other children will not be able to just come into school when we reopen for their year group without our prior knowledge. In order to make sure that we as a school are ready to reopen as safely as we can, no classes will be returning before Monday June 8th 2020. If government guidance indicates that it is safe to open, our Risk Assessment has been approved by the local authority and our own safety checklist has been completed, **we will open to Year 6 on Monday 8th June 2020**. Other classes will then be phased into school, with the plan currently, to have Year 1 come into school from Monday 15th June, Y5 and Foundation Stage from Monday 22nd June, Year 2 from Monday 29th June and Years 3 and 4 from Monday 6th July. All of these dates are subject to change. I will write again after half term to individual classes outlining plans for individual year groups. A copy of the school risk assessment will be attached to this letter.

In the meantime, school continues to be open for the approximately 30 children who have been attending since school closed on March 20th. These children are children of key workers or those identified by the government, as being vulnerable. We know that some employers will be encouraging you to return to work and if you need for your child/ children to have a place in the key worker bubbles please contact the school office. The key worker bubbles will continue to run from 8am. The key worker and class bubbles will not mix at any point during the school day. Your child can not move between bubbles.

It is absolutely clear that home learning continues to be the priority form of education for our children for the foreseeable future. In order to ensure that students do not fall behind in their education, we must continue to work together to ensure that they make good progress through home learning. New home learning packs will be available for all year groups from Monday 1st June.

I apologise if this letter raises more questions than it answers, my hope is to be able to clarify some concrete plans for next half-term over the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, please get in touch if you have any concerns and I will do my best to answer them.

Home learning will stop for the half-term break. As well as teachers needing a break, I'm sure you and your children also need some time away from this.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and my best wishes to you and your family,

Stay safe

Jackie Harland

Head Teacher