



'ad omnia paratus'



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am quite sure that you, like me, have spent much time thinking about the latest Government guidelines on the possible phased reopening of schools. We have been asked to plan for the return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on Monday 1st of June. Rather than just write to these parents and carers I thought that it would be preferable for all to know what is happening in school.

It is important to keep in mind that the Government have stated that this is a conditional plan and as such its implementation will be dependent on many factors around the spread and containment of the coronavirus. It seems that there is general scientific consensus that children are not suffering from the virus in the way older people are but there doesn't appear to be any consensus on whether or not children spread the virus. This may become clearer in the weeks ahead. However, at the moment, we are planning on the assumption that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be allowed to return on June 1st on a phased return.

I have had a few days now to read and digest the guidelines and begin to make our own plans in light of the information I have been given. One of the difficulties in planning is knowing exactly how many pupils we will be catering for. The decision on whether or not to send your children back to school at the moment is yours and yours alone – I cannot possibly make any recommendations on what you should do with all the uncertainties we face. You may be waiting to make this decision until you see the plans we have in place – but it is hard to make exact plans until I know the numbers – a bit of a chicken and egg situation!

What I thought, therefore, might be helpful for you at this point would be to give you a rough outline of what we would do were Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return and send you the guidance for parents from the Government, along with the guidance I am working from. All this may help to inform you at this time.

Below are brief details of key elements of our plan, but please bear in mind more detail will follow when a clearer idea of numbers is established:

- Numbers in school will be limited with **children able to access a part-time provision**
- Provision for Key Worker children already in school will continue and run along the same lines as it has been.



- Year groups would be split into 3 groups (depending on numbers) with no more than 15 in each group, preferably less, with at least 2 staff attached to each group. The staff will stay with the same group through the time they are in school whenever possible.
- The start and end times of the day would be staggered, probably in 15-minute intervals.
- Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Each child will have their own set of equipment and there will be no sharing of materials.
- A cleaning regime for each area in line with Government guidelines.

(Note – all the above arrangements may change should more year groups be directed to return to school, or a child or staff member contracts the virus. We will keep all plans under constant review)

In terms of curriculum content and teaching, in many ways this would be a continuation of the materials we have been sending home, within an overarching aim of ensuring the emotional and social health of the children after a long period away from school. There would be English and maths work for the mornings and topic activities for the afternoons.

Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to have work set for them by their class teacher.

I want to stress that we would be doing our very best to ensure that social distancing between staff and children, and between the children themselves, is adhered to. However, we are dealing with children and as you well know, children are inherently unpredictable. This is a crucial piece of information I need to give you. The guidelines to schools from the Government state this:

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.

The full guidance can be found by following the links below:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

I hope the above has given you some idea of what our final plans will look like. My next step is to send a separate email out to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents with a link to a short online form so we can gauge the possible numbers of children we will be catering for, and also a space for any questions you may have for me and the school.

As I have said already, the decision on whether or not you choose to send your children back lies ultimately with you. There will be no pressure from me, and the Government has said parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time. You are not a bad parent if you decide not to send your child back to school. You are not a bad parent if you decide to send your child into school. You are not a bad parent if you haven't got a clue at the moment what to do.

My priority as a headteacher is always the safety of the children and the staff, first and foremost in everything I do. All we can do as a school leaders at this time is implement fully the guidelines the Government have given us, give you the same information we have been given and, if your children do return, promise to look after them as carefully as we would our own.

Thank you as always for your continued support and understanding.

Take care,

Mrs. Cook