

14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

**Re: Update on Possible Reopening of Schools**

The government has now published more guidance on the possible reopening of primary schools, and I summarise what we know so far below.

If the government thinks it is safe, schools will begin to reopen from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils**. I do understand that this has been met with mixed feelings and would like to acknowledge that this is a decision that must be taken by each family with deep thought and care. As a school, we shall endeavour to work carefully within the government guidelines and with the safety of our children, staff and parents/carers as our primary concern. Please see below the link to the guidelines in full:

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

Over the next week, we will be creating a detailed plan, based on these guidelines, with the aim of welcoming these year groups back. If it is considered safe for schools to start the phased reopening, we shall provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening.

Precautions that we shall be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes: pupils may not be with their current teacher or in their usual classroom; this very much depends on the demand for places and staffing implications. This new class will spend the full school day together and not mix with other classes.
- Staggering break times, drop-off and pick-up times
- Increased cleaning of surfaces and resources
- Increased and regular handwashing e.g. on arrival, before/after eating, after sneezing or coughing and, of course, after the toilet
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Children potentially attending on a rota e.g. one week in school, one week at home.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

Please be reminded that in the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, and will continue to be after 1<sup>st</sup> June. Until we are told it is safe to do so, we are unable to provide places for other children. The government encourages children in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend school, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such

as shielding due to health conditions). Should you wish for your child to return on 1<sup>st</sup> June, this should be for every school day with absences reported to the school in the usual way. **Please note, parents/carers will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.**

For pupils at home, we shall continue to support you and your child with home learning, and meal support for those eligible. Children at school will be following the same planning as those kept at home along with more learning time outdoors, as recommended by the government. We shall keep you updated once we know more about when the school will be able to reopen for other year groups.

If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus whilst at school, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. The government has said that all staff and children who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their school class should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

You may have further questions. My answer to most questions at this time is that we shall endeavour to follow the government guidelines. Until we know how many children will be returning, it is difficult to be able to answer questions about groupings. We shall send more information as soon as we can.

We are very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome all of our wonderful children and staff back to school but we must feel confident that everyone will be able to keep safe. This continues to be our highest priority when considering all of the decisions that we are required to make.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sansom  
Headteacher