

1st June 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you have all had a relaxing break and have been able to enjoy the beautiful weather. Welcome back to the second half of the summer term. I find it hard to believe that we are now in June and we are only just over seven weeks away from the end of this academic year. I wish that I was able to welcome the children back to actually being in school with the staff but this sadly remains impossible at the current time. We are still working towards a phased reopening for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, as directed by the government, from Monday 8th June.

In the week prior to the holiday, the government published over 40 guidance documents related to the reopening of schools. The sheer quantity of information made it very difficult to absorb and process. Thankfully, there were fewer documents sent out last week and the advice has not changed significantly regarding our plans to reopen safely. There was additional guidance produced relating to reopening Early Years settings so we will be considering whether we need any additional measures for our Reception children.

Over the coming week, lots will be happening to ensure we are ready to open safely for more pupils from Monday 8th June:

- Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 teachers ringing parents and carers today to see how many children will be returning
- Miss Pearce ringing parents/carers of our children who have an EHCP or a social worker today to see how many would like to return
- Planning 'bubble' groups including details of staff, allocating class bases, finalising staggered entry/exit times and break/lunch times etc
- Finalising the main risk assessment, considering any feedback received from staff, governors and our LA health and safety adviser
- Reviewing, or writing, risk assessments for individual children, where necessary
- Putting signs and markings around the site and building to support social distancing
- Preparing learning spaces to support social distancing
- Producing a PowerPoint presentation or film to show parents and carers the measures we are taking for their children's safe return to school
- Sending home more information for the parents and carers of children who will be returning to school
- Leading induction sessions for all staff to discuss the risk assessment and ensure everyone feels confident with the procedures and practices in place
- Planning appropriate delivery of the home learning packs for the children who will be in school
- Phoning families to check in with them following the break.

It will be another busy week. By the end of it, we aim for all staff to feel happy about welcoming more pupils back to school and for parents and carers to feel well informed about how we will be organising the next few weeks and confident in our plans. This will allow us all to look forward to taking this first step towards regaining some sense of normality at Branfil.

The school continues to be open for the children of key workers from Tuesday – Friday this week and for the rest of this half term; we are expecting increased numbers due to more parents and carers returning to work now. For these children, please remember that school dinners will now be a cold lunch. These will need to be paid for where a KS2 child (Y3-6) is not in receipt of Free School Meals; they remain free for children in Reception and KS1 since they are funded by the government. We will also be expecting all children to wear school uniform from Monday 8th June, including the children of key workers please.

Our fifth set of home learning packs will be sent out on Friday for those children continuing to learn at home. Teachers will still be responding to emails where children have shared the work that they have completed at home, they will still be making phone calls each fortnight to those children who are still home learning and Pupils of the Week will still be nominated, whether children are learning in school or at home. It will be a challenge to manage and support the learning of all pupils both in school and at home but I feel confident that our great staff team will rise to the challenge.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time.

Mrs Sansom
Headteacher