



Aberford Church of England Primary School

School Lane, Aberford, Leeds, LS25 3BU

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Acting Headteacher - Joanna Warner



15th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, we would just like to thank you all for being so patient this week. As you can imagine, guidance is being updated on a daily basis and as always, we want to provide the most up-to-date information for our school community as and when we can.

You will be aware of the many debates that are taking place nationally regarding the reopening of schools. We are beginning to put together a plan that considers a partial reopening of our school, on 1st June, to specific year groups in line with the directive from the government. Of course, we need to plan for a return to ensure that when, and if it is safe to do so, we can ensure the safety of all in our school community. As a first step we want to understand the potential numbers of pupils that may or may not return during the phased reopening approach. As stated previously, we fully understand and support any families who do not wish to return at this time. Once we have ascertained numbers this will allow us to understand how we might try to manage the situation.

The government have stated:

- only Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return initially to schools. This **does not** include siblings in different year groups
- unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children **cannot** be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff
- classes should be organised with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher. If there are any shortages of teachers, then teaching assistants can be allocated to lead a group, working under the direction of a teacher
- ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed **at all** during the day, or on subsequent days.
- wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended



- when settings open to the wider cohort of children, all those children eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

In our setting this will mean the children in each of the isolated groups (of no more than 15) will spend their time in school together and have separate play and lunchtimes to any other group. All groups will have their lunch in the base they are working in, which may not be their normal classroom. Staffing of groups will either be a teaching assistant or teacher dependent on the staff available each week. Please note due to possible shielding and self-isolation, as well as logistics of staffing, it **may not** be your child's teacher working with their specific year group.

At the beginning of next week, we will be making a phone call to those families with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to simply ask whether you intend to send your child back to school when the school reopens for these specific year groups in June. Please note, at this stage we cannot state an exact start date for any of the suggested year groups, or provide any further details until we have worked and understood the numbers we will be planning for.

If you would like to communicate your thoughts earlier, please call the school phone line during office hours or send an email through the office email address.

We appreciate your continued support during these difficult times. In the meantime, please remember to access our school website for a wealth of home learning opportunities, and please be reassured that this resource will be continued and refreshed throughout the rest of the summer term.

Best wishes and stay safe

Mrs Warner

and

Mrs Crossley

(Acting Headteacher)

(Headteacher from 1st June)