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2nd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am **thrilled** to be able to share with you a brief outline of the guidance we have received today from the Government in relation to the wider re-opening of schools in September.

I am pleased to be able to share that the Government is planning for **all pupils, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.**

The introductory paragraph to the guidance is music to my ears – and yours too, I'm sure!

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased our NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and we are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within schools...Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing... therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.

The document outlines how to facilitate children returning back in September as a **full class with their teachers and support staff**, it describes ways in which leaders must ensure mitigation whilst minimising the number of contacts a pupil has during the school day. Our task is to review our comprehensive Risk Assessment and operational systems which will ensure our children can be educated within our school whilst remaining safe. It will consider maximisation of social distancing and '*minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable*' with '*reasonable steps to protect staff, pupils and others from coronavirus within the education setting*'

Control measures put in place will be '*sensible and proportionate*' within a '*system of controls*', as advised within the guidance. These measures and their efficacy, will be monitored and amended as necessary however I am **pleased to share that our staffing structure and recovery planning is entirely suited to meeting the requirements of this guidance** and indeed, we will be able to facilitate all that is required of us within the requirements, to teach our children in September! Hooray!

Recommendations for staggered start / finish times will be considered and shared with you in a timely manner; however we anticipate that children will, in September, resume their usual number of hours' education each day.

Of course there will be some **ongoing changes to familiar school life**; regular hand-washing, distancing where possible; forward facing desks and reduced contact with peers, however, this is something which my staff and I will endeavour to integrate within the school day with ease. There will not be a requirement for PPE (unless



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dealing with a suspected coronavirus case) and we aim within our recovery planning for children to feel as 'normal' as possible in resuming their time back in school, with their friends.

I have planned within recovery to **increase the amount of pastoral exposure** for children and the guidance today provides us with additional recommendations for support and structure in this way. I would very much anticipate that, just as our Year 1 and Year 6 children have demonstrated, *all* of our children will very quickly settle and will love being back in school.

The guidance recommends a gradual and cautious approach to extra-curricular activity with the expectation that all schools will resume to the 'normal' curriculum by the summer term in 2021. In alignment with our own recovery planning, we have been **ambitious in setting our goals for each year group** (I can share this with you once the document has been shared with Governors and finalised) and I can reassure you that every element has been intended with each child catching up with their curriculum within the first two terms of next year. Some children will need more support; some will need less. You may have noticed recently I have advertised for additional support staff; some children will be in receipt of additional intervention as well as quality teaching and support within the curriculum planning and classroom context.

The reception baseline which had been proposed for this September has been postponed by a year and a Year 1 phonics test is under consideration for the children being admitted into Year 2 from September. It is assumed that other testing eg. Year 2 and 6 SATs, (new) Year 4 times table tests, will resume as normal.

The document outlines the requirement for us to prepare a contingency for a repeat COVID outbreak. I have received, in the last few weeks, some really positive comments regarding our online videos, daily emails and work-packs that the children have had access to latterly – thank you to everyone who has been in touch in this way; despite facing challenges in children learning from home, your constructive comments have been greatly appreciated by my team.

I anticipate building on this and the success of our current online learning as part of our strategic contingency planning and can reassure you that we will endeavour to have all plans in place so that should there be another 'lockdown' / school closure, all children will have a range of remote education, covering the national curriculum, as outlined within the guidance.

If you would like to read the guidance in full, it is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools?utm_campaign=1934719_New%20guidance%20on%20getting%20all%20pupils%20back%20to%20school%20in%20September&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Association%20of%20Head%20Teachers&dm_i=3OT7,15GU7,5O4SLZ,42QKO,1



May I take this opportunity to **thank you** sincerely for your patience, trust and support throughout this time. My Governors, Senior Leaders, teachers, support staff and I are completely dedicated to ensuring your child is in receipt of the highest quality education within our school and we are determined to ensure September and beyond is a positive, happy and successful time for all.

Yours sincerely.

Sarah Richards

Executive Head Teacher

Bramham Shadwell Federation

'Excellence for All'



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