

20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governing Body and Senior Leaders continue to work on provisional plans to open the school up to an increased number of pupils, potentially from the 1st June. We are working tirelessly to come up with a plan that tries to ensure we are all safe – staff and children.

School remains open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children. We want to see all our children return to school but the safety of our pupils, staff and families is always our first priority. We are deeply concerned about the government's plans for our youngest children in Reception, Year 1 to return on June 1st. Although the Government states that, 'Early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff.' they ask that 'If you CAN keep older children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, you should do so.' Sufficient evidence to base this difference of approach has not been shared and therefore the risks around managing our youngest children are unclear.

As the government has asked, we are beginning to plan for a phased reopening of schools from June 1st at the earliest. The government's guidance to schools has been changing each day since the announcement. Also, following the safety advice will make it difficult for our school to physically accommodate the proposed children and it is incompatible with the prime minister's plan to open for further year groups. This lack of clarity is deeply concerning.

Once Governors have met on Thursday and we have a clear understanding of the safety risks to children, staff and their families we will make decisions about specific year groups and the provision that will be offered based upon our own building capacity, staffing levels and risk assessments.

Thank you to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents who sent back their questionnaires as these responses will be used at the Governors meeting to help move a plan forward to reopen.

Finally, once we have a firm plan in place we will write to you again. Please be reassured that we are really working around the clock to try and provide the best possible outcome for all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Holt

