



17th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Reopening of school

I hope you continue to be safe and well and thank you for your continuing support at this difficult time.

As you will be aware, the government has published an intention for primary schools to consider opening for certain year groups from 1st June, pending the continued stabilisation of the national situation. Nothing would please us more than to see the children return to school and have some kind of normality.

The Government will not confirm this intention until the 28th May but have asked schools to plan and prepare for this eventuality. All the guidance that we have received from national government and the local authority has stressed that individual schools should use national guidance to conduct thorough risk assessments of their capacity and physical spaces before opening. Individual schools need to create plans, organise classes and spaces, ensure they have resources and timetable activities, lunchtimes and breaks to ensure that the children return to school in as safe a way as possible for our families and staff.

This means that all schools will have their own individual plan and it will look different in different schools.

Undoubtedly, you will have seen some of the media coverage on the issues that have been raised by both science experts and the teaching unions concerning this proposed partial reopening of schools. There are serious concerns over the impact it will have on causing infection transmission rates to rise and also the ways it may put members of staff at risk – not only through the increased contact at school but also for those who have long journeys to work. There are also concerns over staffing schools given that many staff are on the critically vulnerable or vulnerable list or live with family member who are.

I mention all this because you need to hold in mind that any plan that Chisenhale makes to open needs to be received cautiously as this plan will be subject to daily review depending on the national and local situation.

As a Headteacher, my priority is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the pupils and staff, and this has been central to considering the re-opening of the school to key year groups. In order to re-open for some year groups there would need to be stringent controls in place, as outlined by the guidance which can be found on the Government websites.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools#annex-a-behaviour-principles>

Headteachers and school staff have concerns about the experience children would be getting at school with this level of control, especially for the very youngest of children. It is also unlikely that the school could be ready for a 1st June re-opening for any of these year groups, as preparations would need to be made.

I am currently working with the leadership, team, school staff, local authority and the Governors to assess and plan what will be best for Chisenhale. This is whilst guidance and advice continues to be released. I will be in touch with parents as soon as I have further information, and by Friday 22nd May with an update.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you my gratitude and thanks to all the staff who have been working so hard to keep the home learning package that we offer creative, engaging and balanced and for all their work and care in keeping in touch with the children. I am sure you will join with me in thanking them and thinking they are fantastic! We are so lucky to have them and applaud their commitment and professionalism.

Wishing you all good health.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SLT' followed by a stylized flourish.

Sharon Taylor-Sezgin
Head teacher