



Elm Tree Community Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mr D Lamb

12th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

***Re: Possible reopening of school***

Firstly, I would like to say a massive thank you for your continued support during these challenging and unprecedented times. Since school closures and lockdown began, it has been a difficult time for all of us but very reassuring to see such positivity from all our families. As it has now come for me to update you all further, I encourage you to read this letter thoroughly.

The Department for Education has now issued detailed guidance to schools about their gradual reopening over the upcoming months. **However, it is important to note that the majority of the guidance relates to mainstream schools.** Therefore, Elm Tree will be guided primarily by individual children's risk assessments. The roadmap out of lockdown, as explained by Boris Johnson over the last couple of days, offers some details of how we reopen schools. This is very general advice but offers some clarity in terms of getting children back into schools when it is both safe and appropriate to do so.

**Please be aware that there will be no sudden changes until 1<sup>st</sup> June.** After this date, school leaders, teachers and support staff will be analysing the following:

- The Covid-19 alert system to ensure that this is moving downwards.
- There is adequate staffing levels for the school to gradually reopen.
- School environment is Covid-19 safe.
- All children have been risk assessed (relating to behavioural incidents, ability to social distance, follow simple instructions and require minimal adult intervention).
- Transport can also follow Covid-19 safe guidance. Currently our 17-seater minibuses can only safely transport 3 children at one time.

It is important to note that we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive as many children as we safely can after 1<sup>st</sup> June. Teachers will be continuing their weekly welfare calls with all families and we encourage you to use this opportunity voice any concerns or questions you may have. The government have advised that no fines will be issued during this time for children that are kept at home. However, this is also subject to change and we will endeavour to keep you updated with all of these alterations when and as they happen.



In the meantime, **school is still only open for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, where it has been deemed safe for them to be in school.** We are also continuing to operate with a skeleton staff base in line with the government advice. In addition, we know some employers will be encouraging people to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other children until after 1<sup>st</sup> June. It is important to note that it has been highlighted by Boris Johnson that if your child cannot attend school and you are unable to access childcare, this is a valid reason for you not to return to work during this time.

**In terms of the possibility of your child returning to school after 1<sup>st</sup> June, parents will be informed of the progress of this through the weekly conversation with class teacher over the telephone. After risk assessments have been completed, your child's class teacher will share with you the reasoning behind the decision made to either introduce your child back into the school setting or for them to remain at home until further lockdown rules are eased.**

Lastly, all of the current information and guidance outlined by the government is subject to change and depends heavily on the progress of the Covid-19 alert system. Again, I cannot thank you all enough for your ongoing cooperation with school during this time. It has not been easy for so many parents and carers and we still have a way to go before we can resume as normal. However, I am confident that by following the guidelines and creating a safe school environment, we will be heading in the right direction.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact school. I would also encourage parents and carers to follow the link [here](#) to the official government guidance for families.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Lamb