Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for your patience, since my last update on Monday, whilst I awaited clear and specific direction about what is happening next in terms of re-opening school from the Government.

Unfortunately, specific guidance from the Government for primary schools was only released yesterday evening and much of it contradicts plans that the local authority had started to put in place.

The Government has been very clear all along about one thing, and that relates to the 5 tests that must be met before reopening schools. They are:

* We must protect the NHS' ability to cope. We must be confident we are able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK.
* We need to see a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rate from coronavirus so we can be confident we have moved beyond the peak.
* We need to have reliable data from SAGE showing that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board.
* We need to be confident that the range of operational challenges including testing capacity and PPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand.
* We need to be confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelm the NHS.

In England, schools have been given the date of Monday 1st June as being conditional for the start of a phased return to school with Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6, alongside key worker and vulnerable children, being prioritised. Yet this is all very dependent on whether the above tests are met and whether we can **safely** facilitate the requirements in the guidance within our own school setting. This would include, for example, maximum group sizes of 15 and children not being able to interact with other groups at all. Older children would have to attempt to follow social distancing and hygiene safety guidelines at all times.

The guidance is very clear that parents **will not** be challenged for non-attendance at school. The guidance also concedes that socially distancing is highly improbable in a school environment and the current Government stance on lockdown and social distancing seems to contradict this guidance for opening schools.

The safety, health & wellbeing of the children and our wonderful team will be at the heart of every decision I make - now and always.

Therefore, I am asking you to complete a short survey on ParentMail as soon as you can to help guide our planning and gauge opinion on these vitally important next steps.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me and either myself or a member of the leadership team will speak to you on the phone.

Thank you again for your patience and support. For now, please stay at home and stay safe.

Kind regards,



Chris Parkhouse

Headteacher