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22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/carers

How are you all? I understand you may be feeling anxious about your child(ren) possibly returning to school. I'm fortunate that my children are much older therefore I don't have this worry. I feel for you and hope I can give you the information you need. This letter and extra sheet entitled 'School Reopening Overview' is only the first of many communications to enable you to prepare your child for their return at some point. Please be reassured if and when your child returns, our priority will be pupil wellbeing and we will be doing all we can to reassure and settle them into their new environment.

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. I am now in a position to share with you our plans for the potential phased opening to increased numbers of pupils in school from the 1st June. Given the level of planning and changes to the school environment that are needed to minimise the risk of infection to our school community, I am sure you can appreciate the amount of work that has gone into this planning process and the challenges we have had to overcome and will continue to be met with. I must stress this is an ever changing picture and things have changed since I posted a dojo message a couple of days ago!

We have followed the government's guidance and have considered and prepared action plans, risk assessments, policies, timetables and staffing and premises plans. The government and local authority admit that while they would like us to open to our youngest pupils first (so Nursery, Reception and Year 1, then Year 6), they do acknowledge that all schools are different, and it is not possible for them to set specific national guidelines that could be universally applicable. The safety of our pupils, staff and local community remains our utmost priority and it for this reason that we have devised a plan, which has been agreed by the Governing Body and the Local Authority to minimise risk. It is important to us that our approach is controlled and gradual.

In summary, our proposed phased approach is as follows.

Vulnerable pupils, pupils with EHCPs who have a suitable risk assessment in place, key worker children from all year groups (Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 will be together in one or two bubbles depending on numbers).

Year 1 – Start Monday 1st June

A couple of days to settle the children back in and to acclimatise them to the new rules and routines of a changed school day- this will help us plan for UF.

Reception (children aged 5 only) – Start Wednesday 3rd June

A couple of days to settle the children back in and to acclimatise them to the new rules and routines of a changed school day- this will help us plan for nursery.

Nursery – review the situation on Friday 5th June – it is our ambition to get nursery children into school but only once testing is available for under 5s, as it forms part of the protective measures. See our risk assessment and action plan on our website for more details.

THE DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER AND SENIOR PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING IS MRS DEBORAH BIRDSALL. THE DEPUTY CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS ARE MR CRAIG THORPE AND MRS JANET HARDY

Year 6 – review the situation on Friday 5th June – it is our ambition to get Y6 children into school depending on capacity.

Our plans provide provision to enable an increased number of children to return to school. We have organised pupils into ‘bubbles of 15’ with two members of staff. Our classrooms allow for 9 pupils to be sat at tables (2 metres apart), therefore as numbers increase some children will be in shared areas or even in the dining hall.

We initially planned for 9 bubbles, which included one bubble of 15 for places in school for vulnerable, EHCP and key worker children. There may be an increase in the number of workers having to return to their places of employment which could mean we will have to admit Year 6 at a later date or not at all as these are the oldest of the priority groups. At present time we are expecting approximately 50% attendance. We will communicate regularly with you where we are within these guidelines. If you are returning to work and believe you are a key worker please contact us as soon as possible so we can plan appropriately.

We are NOT able to offer breakfast or after school club at this time as we cannot mix the children from different bubbles. We realise this will make things difficult for some working parents but we need to maintain our protective measures to minimise the risk to children and staff.

There will be no fines for non-attendance. With this document I have included a School Reopening Overview which may answer some of your questions.

Next week we will give you information of who your child’s adults will be, which classroom they will be in, start/finish times, uniform, lunches and so on so that you can begin to get your child prepared. I am reluctant to share photos of empty classrooms with tables 2m apart for fear of scaring pupils. The pupils who are currently in school have adapted to this and we have a wonderful corridor full of their work on display – I’d rather send you photos of that!

As I’m sure you understand, this is an ever changing picture and we are not expecting to receive final confirmation of this intended opening from the Government until Thursday 28th May.

Thank you for your support.
Stay safe and I will be in touch soon with more information.

Best wishes



Mrs Deborah Birdsall, Headteacher