

## Springfield Primary Academy

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Principal: Mr A Willett



Care, Collaboration, Challenge

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent

As I am sure you will be aware, the Prime Minister outlined a potential 'roadmap' on Sunday evening, with further details following on Monday, as part of the 50-page document covering a partial relaxation of the lockdown. We have also received more detailed information from the Department for Education this week. However, it is important to state that there are still many questions yet to be addressed by the government. The following has been published by the Department for Education.

- From the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 at the earliest, we will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside priority groups.
- Our ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. We will only welcome back additional year groups if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children within schools. The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.

It is important to note that the new directives are still all dependent upon certain criteria being met, relating to the Coronavirus and the government's five measuring points.

We realise that many parents are fearful of sending their children back to school. I think it is important, therefore, for you to be aware of the context of the potential situation we may be facing on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. If all children returned in the specified year groups, together with those who are already attending, on an average day, there would be over 170 children on site. As I am sure you can appreciate, this makes the task of trying to maintain social distancing extremely challenging.

We are still making plans to ensure that we can have a safe return to school for all of our children and staff, but I felt it important to give you an idea of what a 'normal' day would look like for your child from the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

- There will have to be a staggered start and a staggered end to each day to prevent gatherings of large numbers of people at the same time.
- Parents will not be allowed into school. All children will have to be left at their designated drop off entrance.
- We have been told that class sizes should be no more than 15 pupils. This is manageable, but would mean that your child may not be with their own class teacher.

- Social distancing is possible with 15 children in the class. Children in Years 1 and 6 will be allocated an individual desk so that they can maintain a distance around them, but this will not be 2 metres, due to the size of the group and the size of our classrooms.
- It will be impossible to ensure that our Nursery and Reception children social distance at all times, due to the nature of how they learn.
- Guidelines are clear that children should remain with their groups throughout the day and not mix with other children. Each teaching group will form its own 'bubble' and will have break and lunch together, separate from other children.
- Break times and lunch times will have to be staggered.
- Government guidance is clear that PPE will not be necessary for children or staff.
- Frequent washing off hands will be enforced.

Unfortunately, the final half term for our Year 6 children will be very different to what normally happens. Due to social distancing restrictions, many of the usual activities that the children have done in the past will not be able to take place. Leavers' Assembly, for instance, will not take place as large gatherings will not be permissible.

Those of you that remain unsure about whether or not to send your child back to school, be assured that we have their best interests at heart. Their safety, and the safety of our staff is paramount. If you choose not to send your child back on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, the guidance we have received from the government states that, *'Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels.'*

We are receiving guidance from the Trust and await further government guidance too. In the meantime, thank you for your continuing support whilst home schooling your children. The work and activities that I see on Class Dojo are a credit to our children and to you too. Over the next week we will continue to make plans. I will write to you again soon with more detailed arrangements.

We continue to be open to children of key workers and to our vulnerable children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact form on the school website.

Yours faithfully

A. Willett