

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well and adjusting to life during lockdown. What surreal times we are living in. I am sure like me you are eagerly awaiting the time we can return to some sort of normality.

Following the announcement on Sunday stating that schools would return on the 1st June, I wanted to write to inform you that our stance is still to only open when we feel it is safe to do so. The safety of our families and staff is paramount and this is something that myself and the governors feel strongly about. As the guidance coming through from the Government keeps changing and the Local Authority advice is still updating, we feel reopening on the 1st is unrealistic.

As a school we want nothing more for the children to return but we want to make sure we are fully prepared and have everything in place before this happens subject to risk assessments with the added complexity of building work restarting on site. We intend to stay open for the key worker and vulnerable children who have been coming into school over the last few months and then hope to phase the return of other key worker children from the week of the 15th June all being well. If staff capacity allows, we will then look to phase in children from Rec, Year 1 and 6.

School will look and feel very different for this to take place. Classrooms will be set out to allow for social distancing meaning smaller class sizes which in turn will mean that children may not be taught in their own classrooms or by their own teachers. Children will stay in their own bubble and there will be staggered break time and lunch times along with pickups and drops off. Children will have their own equipment provided and school will be cleaned thoroughly throughout the day with bins being emptied more regularly.

These are unprecedented times and just as every school setting is different, so every school will open in a different way. Every family is different and will feel the impact of this epidemic in different ways which is why the Government has made it clear that parents will not be penalised for not sending their children back to school. This has to be your own decision and we will respect everyone wishes. If you choose to keep your child at home, remote learning will continue for the rest of the academic year.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank both the teaching and support staff on behalf of myself and governors. They have coped remarkably over the last few months. They have been working hard to brighten and improve our school environment for when the children eventually return, as well as updating remote learning, coming into school daily supporting our keyworker and vulnerable children whilst also trying to juggle family life, looking after their own families which involves home schooling their own children or caring for parents/grandparents. I am sure many of you can relate to this and appreciate how difficult this can be at times. I would also like to thank the children for all the wonderful work they have been submitting and for all the messages of thanks and support we have received.

We will continue to update you on the situation and thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe

Mrs Robinson