

'ENJOY-BELIEVE-ACHIEVE'

Headteacher: Mrs. Janet Alexander Email: head@winmarleigh.lancs.sch.uk

15th May 2020

Dear Parents,

As you know the Government believes that primary schools should plan to reopen to allow the phased return of children in Reception, Year One and Year Six.

The Governors and I have agreed that we will reopen on Monday 1st June for the above year groups and for the children of key workers, subject to confirmation from the Government. Many of you, I know, feel that this decision is somewhat premature, considering that other relaxations on total lockdown have not been monitored or indeed even introduced. You may well have vulnerable relatives living within your household or within your 'isolation bubble' who you are protecting and this next step into the unknown is a cause of great concern.

Whether to send your child back to school is completely your decision. You will not be fined or held accountable in any way, should you decide not to do so. In collaboration with the school Governors, I have completed a comprehension risk assessment in an attempt to mitigate the risks to both your child and your family as well as taking into account the risks to our members of staff working in school.

For the children, missing their friends has been one of the most difficult aspects of the last eight weeks to cope with. Whilst a return to school may help this, I have to stress that the restrictions on their interaction with other children will be compromised because of the safety precautions which we have to put in place.

This week, staff are going into school to remove soft toys, furnishings, small toys and equipment etc and all items which would be difficult to clean on a daily basis and to arrange the furniture so that the children are positioned two metres away from each other. As suggested, we will be taking the children outside as much as possible. Again there will be restrictions, for example they will not be able to play on the fort, the climbing wall or in the den, as all equipment has to be washed at the end of every session.

Key Stage Two children will be asked to come to school for 9am and pick up will be 2:45pm.
Key Stage One children will be asked to come to school for 9:15 and pick up will be 2:30pm.
School will at 12 o'clock each Friday to allow for deep cleaning.

Children who are entitled to a free school meal will be provided with a packed lunch and all other children will be asked to bring a packed lunch. All meals and refreshments are to be eaten in their classroom or outdoors. Key Stage One and Two children will play in separate play areas.

As you can see, changes have had to be made to the school day and the general functioning of the school, which for the children may seem strange. The love and warmth which makes Winmarleigh so special will still be there but school will not feel quite the same place as the one they left behind!

I would be very grateful, if you could please confirm **whether or not**, you intend to send your child back to school on the proposed date of June 1st **as soon as possible**. This will enable me to plan staffing accordingly.

I will then forward further information confirming the finer details and arrangements for the phased return, to those who need them.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Janet Alexander