



Dear Parents, Carers and children,

I hope you and your family are well and coping with the continued, slightly eased lock down arrangements.

I would like to say well done to our children and parents for how well they have adjusted and engaged with remote learning during these very difficult times. Staff have been informing me of the great work that is being completed. Please remember if you are struggling with any elements of the learning that is being shared, let your teachers know and they will be happy to help you.

The government announcement to begin to re-open schools from the 1st of June continues to dominate the press and other media outlets. I would like this opportunity to say that we want children back in school **as soon as it is safe to do so.**

Since the Prime Minister's announcement of Sunday May 10th and subsequent briefing papers released from the central government this week, we have been developing potential plans and Health and Safety Risk Assessments. Priority has been given to Childcare for vulnerable pupils and critical/key/essential workers. In our plans and Risk Assessments we have also considered the **potential** re-opening to school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children.

This planning is not straight forward, given some of the detailed and complex guidance from the government, and this is made worse by contradictory scientific evidence.

We are looking at **potential** options for a **staggered** return in **very small groups**, potentially on a **part-time** basis following **social distancing guidelines**. These options are based on the following principles:

- It can **ONLY** be done in a **SAFE** way for children, staff and their families - if we feel we cannot return safely we will **NOT return** and we will continue with work set by the teachers via home learning.
- In determining a return we will take into account both staff and children's well-being.
- **IF** we proceed with a plan for some children to return we will continue to **MONITOR** government guidance and scientific advice - using this we may have to **POSTPONE** plans.
- We need children to **SAFELY ADHERE** to guidance for returning to school, including the need for **SOCIAL DISTANCING** and **HYGIENE RECOMMENDATIONS**.

Alongside this, I can confirm that after half term on June the 1st, school will continue to be open for Childcare for critical/key workers and for those children who are vulnerable, as we have been since the start of the lockdown period.

At present under current plans and Health and Safety requirements, we cannot return pupils to school until **June the 15th** at the earliest (week 3 of this second summer half term). This delay in a proposed return will enable us to make the school **SAFE** for children and staff, and allow school leadership to make an informed decision about whether it is safe for our children to return, using Risk Assessments.

I will write to you about our plans to open school after the half term holiday - possibly on June the 6th, following a full Governing Body meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and for your patience at this very difficult time, as we continue to take the necessary steps to try and attempt to create a safe and measured plan for re-opening.

Take care and look after each other.

Louise Guthrie, Headteacher
Carli Davison, Chair of Governors

