

Dear parents

Thank you for your patience with the uncertainty surrounding possible school reopening. The government have produced a vast array of documents in a very short space of time, which myself, SMT and the governors have had to read through and unpick. We have had to discuss the various aspects of the guidance and how it relates to our school. Thank you to the families in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who completed the school reopening survey, which has been very helpful for us when planning and considering the risk assessment.

We have made the decision that the school will open to Reception children from Monday 8th June. The plan would be to introduce another year group, when we feel it is safe to do so. We know this decision is about reducing risk and making sure that the school environment is as safe as it can be for all children and staff. A prudent approach would be to gradually build up the number of children and adults on site over time. It is very important that we do not rush this process and we continually review our systems and procedures, ensuring that safeguarding and the safety of all is the number one priority.

It is important to note that the school has remained open to operate a keyworker and vulnerable children provision during the school closure period. This has involved staff operating on a rota and different children attending throughout the week. I am very grateful to all the staff who for their hard work and commitment in making this work. We have been able to take the model we have used for this provision to inform our risk assessment and planning for when we reopen to a wider group of children. The keyworker provision will still operate when the Reception children come back.

Please be cautious about comparing our approach to the return to school with that of other schools locally. Each school is unique with regard to the size of its rooms, the layout of the buildings, the availability of its staff and the challenges they face.

I will be writing to Reception parents early next week to provide more information about what the day will look like, start times, staffing, safety protocols etc. When you have that information, I would encourage parents to reflect on what is right for their child and family and if you make the decision not to send your child back to school please be reassured that this will not impact your child's attendance. It is completely your decision. The usual attendance protocols will not be in effect over the summer term.

For parents in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 6, I appreciate that the children (and you) may be disappointed that they are not returning yet. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back very much and I hope you understand that our ambition is to bring them back to school in a safe and well-planned manner. I would ask that you are patient with us as we implement this staggered intake. As always, we will keep all of our decisions under regular review and continue to ensure you are informed of any updates as soon as there is news.

Once again, I would like to thank you and all of our school community for your support throughout this challenging time.

I would like wish everyone a safe and happy half term and our Muslim families a very happy and enjoyable Eid. Eid Mubarak!

Best wishes

Karen

