

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, may I apologise for writing yet another letter to you in only a matter of a few days, but I wanted to keep you updated on the school's progress with regards to the government's plans to open schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June.

Having received what can only be described as quite 'hazy' information within the Prime Minister's briefing on Sunday, the government has now published more detailed guidance to support schools with preparing their settings to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside the priority groups we have remained open for since 23 March. Contained within this guidance is comprehensive detail on how to implement protective measures to ensure that the safety of our children and staff remains, first and foremost, the highest priority. As we digest this information further in order to cement our plans over the next few days, we will communicate these in detail to you as and when they are finalised, to provide you with the reassurances you need to make those informed decisions as to whether it is appropriate for your child to return to school at this time. We will make sure school is safe for parents, safe for staff and safe for pupils.

That being said, I have no doubt that many of you will be anxious at the prospect of schools opening their doors more widely, given the overwhelmingly conflicting messages we are all receiving from the government as lockdown restrictions start to be lifted. This is completely understandable. As children return, they will naturally want to embrace their teachers and their friends, so to stop such affection in line with social distancing to reduce the risk of transmission is a challenging, difficult and uncomfortable task for all involved. As we look to devise strategies over the forthcoming days and ultimately cascade these to you, what I would like to reassure you of in the first instance is that this is, one hundred percent, your choice. I fully support any parent who chooses to keep their child at home and educate them in the same way as we have been doing over the past seven weeks. You will not be fined and must not feel under any pressure whatsoever. Your children are your world, and whilst we are itching to see them again, you must feel in your heart that the decisions you make at this time are best for them, best for you and best for your family. If this option is best for you, that is perfectly fine with me.

In the meantime, our school remains open as it has been over the past few weeks for the children of key workers and those deemed vulnerable. Home learning will continue and your children's teachers are always on hand to provide help, guidance and support whenever you need it. We will work tirelessly alongside the Trust and our staff to ensure that when we are able to welcome more of you back, our school is as safe as possible. I will continue to keep you fully informed every step of the way.

As always, stay safe, look after yourselves and each other.



Mr D. Adams  
Head Teacher