

Tuesday May 12th 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to give you an update on the proposed phased reopening of schools.

The school received guidance from the government yesterday evening. I will summarise for you the information that we have received so far:

- The transmission rate of coronavirus has decreased. Therefore the government expects that, with further progress, we may be able, from the week commencing June 1st 2020, to invite more children back to school.
- The government will only allow this to happen if the five key tests are being met at that time.
- The government is asking schools to plan in the expectation/hope that these tests are being met.
- Those pupils whose parents' work is critical to the nation's response to COVID-19 will continue to attend school as they have been doing since March 23rd.
- From June 1st at the earliest primary schools will begin to invite pupils from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.
- The government is gradually increasing the numbers of children attending schools based on the latest scientific knowledge.
- The government's ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month, if possible, although this will be kept under review. The additional year groups will only be invited back to school if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus shows that it is acceptable to have larger numbers of pupils in school.
- The safety of pupils and staff is the government's utmost priority.
- The year groups that have been chosen are key transition years. Reception, Year 1 and Nursery are at the beginning of their school career, and Year 6 are finishing Key Stage 2 and are preparing for transition to secondary school.
- The government recognises that steps must be taken slowly and priority by schools can be given as follows:
 - 1) Children of parents whose work is critical to the nation's COVID-19 response
 - 2) Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils
 - 3) Year 6 pupils
- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.
- There will need to be many measures taken to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus e.g. smaller class sizes, staggered start and finish times to the school day, staggered lunch and break times.
- Strict protective measures and risk assessments will need to be taken, including cleaning, PPE, hygiene measures.

I have tried to give you as much information as possible. As you would expect, the school will need time to plan and consider all of the guidance that we have received less than 24 hours ago. The staff and I will be working together to plan what is possible for our school with the best interests of your children and staff as a priority. The school has been promised more information from the government over the coming days. As soon as I have more structure to share with you, I will write to you. The government has published some guidance for parents which you will find useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I would ask for your continued support and patience as we work together to plan what is best for our school community in the coming weeks.

Very best wishes,

N. Park

Headteacher