

13.05.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The government has now published guidance for the phased reopening of schools. Guidance has been issued to education establishments and to parents.

The guidance for educational establishments can be accessed by clicking the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

The guidance for educational establishments can be accessed by clicking the link below:

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

Can you all please take some time to read both sets of guidance as this will be a useful reference point as decisions made by the school are communicated with you over the coming days and weeks.

I know there will be many questions that parents have regarding the reopening of school. At present I do not have answers to all of your questions. The government will be updating guidance to schools over the coming days and weeks. I will share this with you as soon as it is available.

At this point I can confirm that the government have accepted that social distancing in schools is virtually impossible. Schools have been asked to put measures in place that will mitigate this but with the acceptance that in most circumstances it will not be possible to keep children 2 metres apart, especially younger children.

I can also confirm that the government accepts that there will be many parents who will not be confident to send their children back to school at present. Under normal circumstances, schools would follow procedures to encourage regular attendance including the issuing of fines. Government guidance is clear that parents will not be issued with fines if they choose to not send their child to school for the rest of the academic year.

The teachers and myself will be working hard over the coming weeks making preparations for a phased return starting the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Due to government restriction on class sizes (no more than 15 children per class), the fact we have 37 children per year group and the number of classrooms we have, it may not be possible to admit all children at the same time. We may have to introduce a rota system but this will depend on how many parents decide to send their child / children to school.

I will shortly be sending out a link to a survey asking all parents their intentions regarding sending their child / children to school during the summer term.

Please keep in mind that the intention to start a phased reopening of schools is open to change. The government have made it clear that if the R rate increases to above 1, or the number of new cases and deaths is not at an acceptable level then the reopening of schools will be delayed. They have informed schools that we may only get 48hrs notice of any change. This could mean that schools and parents will not be informed of a delay in opening till 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for the brilliant work you have been doing supporting your child's / children's education over the last weeks.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of my staff who have ensured that our doctors, nurses and social care workers have been able to continue the fight against Covid-19.

I will be in touch soon.

Kind regards

Richard Bridgewater