

Friday 15th May 2020

Re: Possible reopening of school in June

As I'm sure you are aware, the Government recently announced that it may be in a position to implement a phased reopening of schools from 1 June for pupils in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 classes provided it is safe to do so. This is part of a conditional plan which will remain under regular review and is yet to be made final.

As you know, there has been much discussion of this matter in the media and there are many important factors that will need to be taken into account. I appreciate that many parents/carers, children and staff will be anxious about how we will be able to provide the safest possible environment for our school community if the conditional plan comes into effect.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that the safety and welfare of Earlham children and staff will be at the forefront of any decisions made. We know that many members of our school community live within extended families and / or have family members who are extremely vulnerable to catching Covid-19 which may be passed on by asymptomatic young children carrying the virus.

We of course miss the children terribly and want to see them back in school as soon as possible, however, the safety and wellbeing of our school community is paramount and they should only return when it is considered safe.

Please be assured that we will not be pressuring you to send your children to school – you know what is best for your child's health and wellbeing. We will provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening in due course so that you can make an informed and appropriate decision. Further information will be provided by text message and via the school website so please continue to check for regular updates.

When the school does reopen, it is likely to appear very different to the children, given the need for social distancing. Social distancing is an unclear concept for many of our children, especially the youngest and most vulnerable. There will be many important issues to work through in order for the school to reopen safely.

We would like to thank you for your continued support in helping your child learn from home. We are incredibly proud of the children and their achievements and will continue to work hard to provide them with the best remote learning opportunities we can offer.

Please accept my sincere thanks in advance for your patience, support and understanding over the next few weeks and months. Everything we will do will begin after careful consideration of the wellbeing and welfare of all our children and staff and the wider communities we serve.

Yours sincerely,

N Rezai

Natasha Rezai **Headteacher**