



Wednesday 27th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. Thank you for your patience while we awaited further information on the potential reopening of schools for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes.

As I am sure you are aware, the Government has recently confirmed that it would like primary schools to open for some children before the end of the summer term. This decision will be confirmed on 29th May at the earliest, when it reviews whether the five key tests it has outlined have been met.

Over the past few weeks, the school has received a great deal of guidance and advice from the Government, the Department for Education, Public Health England, the Local Authority and various Unions. I am sure you will appreciate that there has been a huge amount of information for us to consider.

It is the School's duty to comply with the guidance to ensure that your children and the school staff are as safe as possible when they are in school and it will be taken into account as we continue to consider how to reopen the school safely.

The safety and wellbeing of our children, families and staff continue to remain my highest priority and pupils in these year groups will not return to school until we are sure that the school is as safe as it can be.

We are keen to have the school up and fully running again and will do our utmost to achieve this in a safe, successful and timely way, but only when we are confident that we understand and are prepared for the safest way to do this for our children and staff. For this reason, the school will not reopen on June 1st.

We need to make sure that we have adequate supplies of materials and the staffing to keep the school safe, hygienic and clean and over the next 2 weeks, thorough risks assessments will be carried out and a deep clean will be taking place across the school.

Thank you to all the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents and carers who have completed and returned the online survey. The information you have provided will help us to assess how many children are likely to be returning to next month. We are still awaiting a number of responses, so please do submit them as soon as possible. Many of you have clearly expressed that you are concerned about the prospect of your child/children returning to school this term and that you do not currently intend for this to happen.

Please be reminded that the Government have announced that, in the current circumstances, it does not intend to hold parents/carers to account for the non-attendance of their children of statutory school age. It is completely understandable that some of you will have concerns about sending your child back to school. Whilst it is up to schools to decide what is safe and manageable, following this guidance, it is ultimately up to you to decide whether to keep your child at home.

I will be writing to you again at the end of next week to provide you with an update on the school's position but in the meantime, please take note of the following information which explains how the school will operate when it is ready to reopen:

- Some classes may not be returning to school this term, including those outlined by the Government.
- The children, in particular, need to understand that when the school does reopen, it will look and feel very different. New systems and procedures will be introduced to keep the school community safe.
- Children may not be attending school all day every day or every week. It depends on the number of children who will be returning to school and the number of adults who can support them. Children may start later than usual and may finish earlier than the usual school day.
- Not all members of staff will be able to return to school and children may be taught by an adult who is not their teacher, or a familiar member of staff. Groups may be led by members of the support staff team.
- Children will be in groups of less than 15, in a room that may be different to their usual classroom. To avoid contamination, the groups will be required to stay together all day in a small and well-defined area of the school, not coming into contact with any other group of children or adults. Food will be eaten in these rooms during the lunch hour and packed lunches will need to be provided.
- Classrooms will be reorganised so that children sit at tables that are at least two metres apart and many resources will be removed from rooms so that children do not touch or share equipment.
- Vulnerable pupils or children of key workers may have a different timetable and may be in different classrooms to their classmates to prevent the spreading of the virus.
- As far as possible we have been asked that we try to maintain social distancing, in the classrooms and playground but as you can well imagine this is going to be almost impossible with young children and vulnerable pupils, even if class sizes are kept very small.
- For the foreseeable future Breakfast Club and After School Club will not be open.
- All children and staff entering the school may have their temperature checked before they are allowed onto school grounds and this may be logged on a daily basis.
- Lessons will be off timetable to enable staff to deliver the provision that they deem is needed by the children that they are working with, although we will aim for the curriculum to develop the children's mathematical, English and communication skills.
- Cleaning of communal areas, such as toilets, will be carried out throughout the day to best prevent the spread of the virus.
- Adults who are not staff will not be able to enter the building or be close to each other around the building. Essential meetings will need to take place by telephone.
- School staff may not be wearing PPE, including masks, unless they are administering First Aid or, in the case of our younger pupils, need to change them.
- If you are a key worker (as defined by the strict Government list) or have children who meet the vulnerable children criteria and you would provision your child, please contact the school office. Please be aware that extended provision and alternative arrangements may be provided by another local school.
- If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone in this group, they should not come back to school at this point. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice about coming back to school, e.g. children with asthma.
- If you or anyone living at home shows any symptoms of Covid-19, you should self-isolate for at least 14 days. Your child must not come back into school during this time.

Please be assured that our proposed plans and models will be in line with the best advice available for ensuring the optimum safety in our school, in the current situation.

Our staff are obviously extremely keen to support families but also have concerns about their own health and the health of their families and loved ones. Some members of staff will be shielding and others have been advised to self-isolate. We are considering the number of staff members actually able to come into work and thinking about a curriculum that can be taught in these unusual arrangements. We also need to take into account the fact the remote learning will need to continue until the end of term.

We are working in partnership with our secondary colleagues to ensure that support will be in place for our Year 6 pupils to help them to prepare for their transition to secondary school. Further information about this will be shared in the coming weeks. We are also working hard to plan a smooth transition for all other year groups.

It is obviously a huge disappointment to everyone in our school community that this year has been so terribly interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and I would like to reassure you that we will continue to do our utmost to support every member of our school community.

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

N Rezai

Natasha Rezai

Headteacher