



13.5.20

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure by now that you will have heard that the Government are starting to look at phasing children back to school from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

In response to the announcement, I would like to share some thoughts and information with you.

We have been told by the Government to prioritise children in the following order:

- Our key worker/vulnerable register of children. We will need two of our classrooms for these children as some are years 2 to 5.
- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 6

We have received various documentation from the Government to enable us to prepare for the 1<sup>st</sup> of June all of which pose challenges for us to address over the next couple of weeks:

Some of our challenges:

1. Government guidance says groups should at this stage of the pandemic, be no more than 15 in a classroom, as children are to practice social distancing. Some of our classrooms will not accommodate 15 children with 2m spaces between them. We will need at least 3 classrooms for Y1 and 3 classrooms for Y6. We will potentially have 130 children returning. Children will not necessarily be with their class teacher as their teacher can only have 15 children in a base.
2. Children have to have a staggered start and end to the day and staggered break and lunchtimes so that they do not interact with any other group of 15.
3. We have 45 reception children and 2 classroom spaces so we would not be able to have more than 30 on site at any one time.
4. Ten of our 11 classrooms would be in use from 1<sup>st</sup> June; we would need 10 teaching staff, possibly more. We currently have 2 teachers and 4 teaching assistants who cannot return at this time.
5. Staff are supposed to maintain a 2 metre distance from a child. As we know, children themselves close the gap quickly when they need something. There is also general first aid and toileting accidents for us to think about.

Do I want staff and children back in school, of course I do. Are some of you at your wits end at home, I am sure you are. However, as much as I would like to be able to guarantee the safety of your child, in truth I cannot guarantee appropriate social distancing.

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In a primary school, I feel it is near on impossible to socially distance with what will be over 150 children, I know many colleagues, and professional representative bodies share my view and are currently asking the Government to re-consider their decision.

Ultimately, these are your children, they are precious and you need to make the decision that is right for you and your family circumstances. There are no fines for non-attendance and no-one will try to convince you to send your child/children if you decide that they are better off remaining with you and continuing to learn from home for the remainder of this term. Staff will continue to upload work and this is what the children who are in school will be using to learn also.

Once we know more, and have resolved some of the challenges that the restrictions pose, I will write to you again with detail for reception, years 1 and 6.

In the meantime, if you have a child in reception, year 1 or year 6, teaching staff will contact you about your decision in the coming days.

Are you going to send them back to school?

Kind Regards,

Gill Hutton

Headteacher

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