

1st June 2020

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of the half term holiday and the government has announced they are satisfied it is safe to start the phased return of children to school. Of course this still remains a time of great uncertainty since the R number is only just below 1. However, in the next few weeks we will be working hard to minimise all risks for children, parents and staff whilst remembering there is no such thing as zero risk in any walk of life. I am reminded of this every day as I journey into school. My lengthy journey confirms that traffic is now similar to the traffic levels of pre lockdown.

We have now received confirmation from the Prime Minister and I am now able to start the process of the phased return of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from Wednesday 3rd June. Details of how this will take place are being shared directly with the parents of children in these year groups.

For parents who have chosen not to send your child to school, this is an update to keep you informed about what is happening in the coming weeks. At present, the government continues to confirm that parents who are choosing to keep their children at home and support them in their learning will not be penalised with fines for non-attendance. This is welcome news.

For children attending school, our school week will run from Monday morning to Friday lunchtime for all year groups, including nursery. This will allow us to provide planning and preparation time for all our teachers who are involved in teaching in school and means that we are able to limit the numbers of adults having contact with children in school.

Our childcare provision for key and critical workers and for children who are vulnerable continues from Monday 1st June. These children will be supported to complete home learning tasks within school.

At present, we do not have any space for additional children in our childcare as we are full and we do not have any extra adults who can lead an extra pod. Obviously we will continue to monitor this situation according to the needs of our families.

The next time we will consider opening up for more childcare or school pod places will be from the week commencing 15th June.

Home learning will continue to be set for children who are not returning to school. Just to remind you, from now until the end of the summer term, this may not be provided by your child's class teacher. A home learning team has been set up and they will post learning as well as feedback to children about their learning. This will be a very important half term for everyone who has supported us in keeping their children on track with home learning since we do need to work together to keep your children engaged in taking part in the learning that is being set.

For those families who are entitled to Free School Meals, food hampers will continue to be available.

If you have any concerns or questions you wish to raise, please contact the school office by telephone or email and responses will be made as quickly as possible to you.

To keep our school staff safe, our site is closed to all visitors.

I do appreciate the difficult decisions you are making when you choose to support your children in their learning at home. Whatever we do, we are doing together. I hope that we will be in a situation where all children are safely back in school as soon as possible so that life for everyone can return to normality.

As is my choice at times, I leave you with a quote to think about.

‘In some parts of the world, students are going to school every day. It’s their normal life. But in other parts of the world we are starving for education ... it’s like a precious gift. It’s like a diamond.’ Malala Yousafzai

I know that you will value your child’s education as much as Malala.

With my best wishes to you all,

Mary Foreman Interim Headteacher