

18 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we are now a week on from the Government's announcement proposing a return to school for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on 1st June, I am writing to update you on the progress we are making to prepare for reopening.

During the last week more guidance was published by the Government and whilst there may be more information over the coming week, there are some key areas I wanted to highlight:

- We will issue clear drop-off and pick-up guidelines that are built around adherence to social distancing rules and to remind parents that they will not be able to enter the school site.
- Children will be in groups of no more than 15 – this will be the case for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6 as well as vulnerable children and those of critical workers;
- Children will remain in these groups at all times with the same staff members as far as is possible.
- We have implemented a strict cleaning programme and rota that follows the Government guidelines.
- We will ensure that all adults and children follow strict personal hygiene with frequent hand washing, the supply of hand sanitizers and PPE (as appropriate) and follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra.

We actively encourage all children who have parents that are critical (key) workers and those who might be considered vulnerable to come into school regardless of year groups.

For all other children not in school, distance learning will continue so that all pupils continue to receive high quality home learning. If you have specific circumstances please refer to the attached Frequently Asked Questions document.

In the coming week, we will be focusing on completing our risk assessments of our schools and for children with specific needs and putting in place our detailed plans for every academy. If your child's circumstances have changed, please let your academy know as soon as possible.

Next week is half-term and the whole week will be closed to ALL pupils so that we have some time dedicated to preparing for this next phase 1st June. We will be spending our time focusing on:

- Thorough cleaning of all areas
- Preparing the building and classrooms
- Ensuring appropriate equipment is in place
- Support packages for children particularly affected by COVID related issues
- Behaviour standards and routines for children
- Finalising arrangements for the school day
- Staff training and practice sessions
- Catering provision

For those in receipt of free school meals, as per government instructions, the vouchers will not be issued for the May half term period.

I appreciate how challenging and uncertain these times continue to be, and many of you will continue to have questions. As mentioned above we have developed the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions document, which I hope will go a long way to answering them, but if not please do get in touch through the school office in the usual way. Later this week we will be in touch with you again with more details on the practicalities of the return and what this will mean for your child.