26 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you to everyone for your continued support and patience during this uncertain period.

With regard to the announcement two weeks ago, which was reiterated again this weekend by the Prime Minister, schools will be expected to begin to open their doors to a wider number of children from June 1st at the earliest. It is important to note that all schools can only return and widen the offer to more pupils if the following 5 tests are in place:

1. There is a significant decrease in number of cases of infection
2. There is a clear test and track system in place
3. There is clear guidance on the use of PPE in schools
4. There is clear guidance on social distancing for schools
5. There is a clear procedure to follow should there be a confirmed case of Covid 19 reported in the school.

Only if all of these are in place will we be able to proceed with a plan for some children to return, in a safe and manageable way. This will likely be a staggered approach to ensure that day on day, week on week, we are reviewing and maintaining the conditions needed to keep us all safe.

It is important that you are reassured that any return to school for additional pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will not happen until we have completed all our health and safety checks, finalised our risk assessments and agreed these with governors.

Listed below are just some of the considerations that we are addressing in our planning and risk assessments:

- Pupil/staff ratio with the current staff availability
- Children and staff with medical needs
- Organisation of bubbles (groups) in school - small groups of up to 8 for younger children, with designated adults in designated spaces
- What learning will look like for those in school and those that are not
- Cleaning and hygiene
- What social distancing measures we need to put in place around the whole school building and playground
- How we manage bringing and collecting children from school
- Outdoor play - break and lunch
• Eating arrangements - which is likely to be eaten in individual rooms at their own table
• Supporting the wellbeing and mental health of children & staff
• Establishing routines/expectations
• Managing the current keyworker provision alongside new pupil groups
• Bereavement support
• Provision and support for children with additional needs
• Procedures if a child or adult becomes ill
• Behaviour expectations and adapted rules during the initial opening period

As you can see, there is a lot to consider and we want to do this with safety at the forefront. School will likely be a very different place to what the children were used to and we need to take that into account. I also need to add that whatever measure we put in place to protect children and adults from the risk of infection, I cannot guarantee the school will be 100% risk-free.

With all these factors to take into account, we will not be opening the school to more children until June 8th at the earliest.

We are currently not in a position to do this safely and need time to prepare the site properly and ensure we have sufficient staff to see our plans through. The school will remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

All plans are potentially subject to change and we will know more once the Prime Minister has made his announcement on the 28th. This will tell us if the 5 key tests above have been met.

I will of course keep you informed of any decisions, around if and when different year groups or identified groups of children can return to school.

I know that you understand and appreciate how difficult these decisions are and, as always, we value your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Kevin Reid
Headteacher