



## Reaching for the Stars !

13th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister, we have been sent further guidance relating to what the first phase of re-opening schools will look like. Despite the fact that the year groups mentioned in Sunday's announcement were Reception and Year One, now that the guidance has been published we have been informed that the first year groups Primary schools should be prioritising are NURSERY and RECEPTION.

This extract is taken from the new guidance document,

settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:

- early years settings– 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups
- infant schools - nursery (where applicable) and reception
- primary schools – nursery (where applicable), reception and year one

Please note - going forward we will still continue to be open to children of Key Workers and our most vulnerable irrespective of their year group.

Of course we are keen to get all of the children back to school as soon as we can. Whilst the document makes reference to Year One and Year 6 being included once the above has been achieved, we need to ensure that we increase the number of pupils on the site in a managed way to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff and to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. We must take into account the fact that whilst the risk to young children themselves is low, **the risk of children spreading the virus isn't** and we need to bear this in mind throughout the planning process.

We will be putting plans in place over the next few days to determine what the first phase of our opening for Reception, some Nursery and some Year 1 pupils will look like. This will begin from 8th June at the earliest, not the 1st June as that week is part of our school holidays. The pace of all of this will be determined by government advice and our ability to manage the numbers of pupils whilst keeping the risk low. **As soon as we feel that this is manageable we will look at reintroducing Year 1 and then other Year groups in a timely manner.**

To help us to plan ahead I will be sending out an electronic form for you to complete and return to us - this will include asking you if you intend to send your child into school for the rest of this term once we are open again to your child's year group.

Here is the link that can be sent through Parent Pay -

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJk1OYboKvTBPWFpEakRhyAiVOMjJPeenlN-gcZ8CJpN3Jew/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJk1OYboKvTBPWFpEakRhyAiVOMjJPeenlN-gcZ8CJpN3Jew/viewform?usp=sf_link)

This will help us to know the number of pupils we can expect to have in and to organise the children into smaller groups around the school site. There is information included in the recent guidance about attendance going forward, including the attendance of children in vulnerable groups. Whilst we would encourage the attendance of all children who don't fall into the vulnerable category, the government's current position is that parents will not be fined if children don't attend and schools will not be held accountable for attendance figures during this period.

The information set out in the document relating to attendance is as follows:-

#### Attendance

No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason. Eligible children – including priority groups - are strongly encouraged to attend their education setting, unless they are self-isolating or they are clinically vulnerable (in which case they should follow medical advice). If someone in their household is extremely clinically vulnerable, they should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to, and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions. Families should notify their nursery/school/college as normal if their child is unable to attend so that staff can explore the reason with them and address barriers together. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels. Schools and colleges should continue to inform social workers where children with a social worker do not attend.

So in summary :

- We will be surveying parents to see if they intend to take up a place from 8th June
- **Places will be subject to staffing levels and workplace safety control measures.**
- Our Key Worker Group (KWG) has hit capacity and no more pupils will be added to it.
- Our KWG pupils will continue attending every day regardless of all other year group arrangements.
- Once we have confirmed numbers we can plan for staff numbers.
- We are aiming to start from the 8th June. No uniform - comfy shoes or trainers.
- At this stage Nursery pupils will not be admitted due to staffing issues.
- We are planning to have Y1 in from 15th June.
- We are planning to have Reception and Y6 in from 8th June.
- No uniform to encourage a fresh change of clothes each day (trainers or comfy shoes).
- **All of our plans are subject to staff availability and this could change at short notice - staff do get sick - have families and may need to shield them too .**
- If all goes well we will roll out places to other Year groups across the school but we cannot give dates or times at this stage.
- Any parent taking up a place for their child should be giving a commitment for the rest of the term - places are too valuable to be coming in one day but not the next. Unless pupils are genuinely sick or genuinely showing symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support throughout these difficult times, we will continue to keep you informed as more information becomes available,

Kind Regards ,

Mr P McDowell  
Head Teacher

