



Dear Parents/Carers

12 May 2020

Following updated guidance this week from the Government, schools will now be asked to 're-open in stages', from 1<sup>st</sup> June (subject to certain conditions).

This will begin with Primary age students in Yr R, Yr 1 and Yr 6. The Government's intention is for all Primary age children to return to school before the summer holidays. Secondary age students, due to take examinations next year, would then be given the opportunity to "Check in with their teachers" for some time before the school holidays.

As you are aware, since Covid 19 began, we have remained open for pupils who have needed to be in school. Please be assured that this will continue until the end of this term. We will also continue to support those who have remained at home, providing work and making twice weekly contact via telephone or email and in some cases home visits. These calls may be from a withheld number.

As a school we need to consider each pupil's understanding, and ability to comply with, social distancing, rather than an expectation of understanding based on their age. We have not yet received any information from the government outlining how their plans will be implemented or guidance about how we can ensure the safety of all our students, their families and the staff at school; including their transport to and from school.

Each week our staff meet to assess the safeguarding, wellbeing and academic needs of each student. We then work with families to identify the most appropriate ongoing provision for students. This may be at home or at school, but this decision is always based on the desire to keep students and their families safe. We will continue with this approach and will be contacting all families prior to Thursday 21st May, to discuss the right option for each student and their family for the summer term, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Wherever possible the decision to 'Stay Home and keep safe' will be the approach that we will take. This will continue until a point at which we feel the conditions at school mean we can expand the numbers attending each day.

Therefore, we will first assess the capacity of our buildings, rooms, corridors and social spaces; the school will then make appropriate adjustments in-line with social distancing rules and Public Health England guidance.

We will also need to consider school staff availability and their wellbeing needs in relation to their own self-isolation and shielding status.

We will work with the Local Authority, Social Services and parents to identify students who we jointly consider are safer attending school and those who we consider would be better

supported by remaining at home. Student and staff safety will always be of paramount importance and will guide all our decisions.

Please be assured that we will continue to follow all Government and health guidance and put in place the measures that are required to keep people safe. However, there is no doubt that whatever measures are put in place, we cannot completely eliminate the risk that the virus could spread in school due to the fact that we will be in close proximity with each other. As the numbers of students coming into school increases, the risk of contracting the virus will also increase. Therefore, we will only allow more students to attend once we are sure that we are able to do all that we can to protect everyone.

Thank you for your continued support at this time. Please stay home where possible, follow the Government's guidance and maintain social distancing protocols.

Best wishes

Mr G Bartrum  
Head Teacher