



## BORINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



COURTLAND CRESCENT, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH PL7 4HJ

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Headteacher: Mr J C SCALES BEd (Hons) NPQH

*We take pride in everything we do.*

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you in response to the letter from Rob Haring, CEO of WeST, about the reopening of WeST Schools, which was emailed to you on Friday evening - a copy is also on the website. Reopening will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June – I feel it is important to emphasise that this is a Westcountry Schools Trust decision, and not one made by Boringdon Primary School. Many of the schools in WeST have been closed throughout the pandemic and will need time to prepare for the reopening. We are fortunate at Boringdon that we have remained open for Edu-care, and therefore the kitchen, cleaning and grounds have all been maintained, as well as staff being on-site daily.

The present proposal is that children in Year 6 will be able to attend on a rota of Mondays and Tuesdays (starting from 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June) and children in Year 1 on a rota of Thursdays and Fridays (starting from 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June). Obviously, this is subject to change, but it will be the model we will be preparing for, unless instructed otherwise. Edu-care will continue as before and will be provided daily. However, numbers will continue to be limited, with care available for vulnerable pupils, and the children of critical key workers only. I can clearly see issues for parents with this model, and I would like to reassure Year 6 and Year 1 parents, that I will do everything I can to support you during this process. At present, I have received no guidance on the return for Reception children. I will inform parents as soon as I know more.

The school is now in the process of preparing for reopening. Please let me reassure you that we will do everything we can to maintain the safety of your children and our staff. Undoubtedly, this will be a challenge and it will be difficult to follow all the government guidelines, especially with social distancing. I would ask that you be realistic in your expectations. We will continue to do our very best, but appreciate that many parents will have concerns, and may decide not to send their children back to school. We will support you in whatever decision you decide to make, and reassure you that there will be no repercussions for non-attendance.

There are several measures we are introducing to support and protect your children from the virus:

**Cleaning:** this has been increased and we are fortunate to have a contract with an excellent cleaning company, who have been extremely supportive throughout this time. Additional hours have been acquired, and cleaning of key areas will be maintained throughout the day. Children will be expected to wash their hands on a regular basis.

**Social distancing:** class sizes will be reduced to a maximum of 15, and preferably below this. Children will work in a daily pod system, where they stay within their pod i.e. go out to play together, lunch etc. Break and lunch times will be staggered, as will the start and end of the school day.

Classrooms will be adapted to maximise social distancing. A one-way system will be introduced.

**The curriculum:** this will be adapted to suit the needs of the children, and where possible, learning will take place outside of the classroom. The main emphasis will be similar to the Home Learning package. Support will be in place for the children who have additional requirements to help them through this difficult time.

**The start and end of the school day:** access to the main building will be limited and parents will not be allowed in the classroom. An appointment will need to be made to talk to class teachers. However, staff will be placed outside to address any issues or to pass on messages. We request that parents respect social distancing rules, especially at drop-off and pick-up times. We have no jurisdiction outside the school gates. We will stagger the start and end times, but it is important that parents help us in this process. The back gate will be open from 8<sup>th</sup> June to ease congestion.





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I have only covered the main areas and there are many more things that we will be doing. My main priority - as always - will be safeguarding the children and staff. I reiterate that we will do our best to follow guidelines, but it will be a challenge and I ask parents to be realistic in what we can achieve. If you have any issues or concerns, please do contact the school and we will try address these. At present, the decision on whether your child should return to school lies with you, as the parent/guardian. We will respect and support your decision in any way that we can.

Kind regards,

Jason Scales

