



# GREAT CHESTERFORD C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

School Street, Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1NN  
HEADTEACHER Mrs S. Mitchell BSc (Hons), MA Ed

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents,

## School Re-opening Plan – Phase One

As part of the national social distancing measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, schools are currently open to vulnerable children and children of key workers only. From the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, at the earliest, the Department for Education (DFE) is asking primary schools to extend their provision to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

In preparing for this phased return, the Leadership Team and Governors have closely followed Government guidelines and their scientific advice with regards to protective measures; in addition to local advice from the Essex Local Authority. A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to inform our phased return.

Our phased return is based on the following key aims:

- Minimising the risk of a COVID 19 infection for children and teachers working in school;
- Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community;
- Ensuring that all of our children have continued access to a quality education; and
- Supporting all members of our school community in this difficult and unprecedented time.

Following our risk assessment and safeguarding requirements, we aim to extend our provision to children in **Reception Class** and **Year 1** from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June **in the first instance**. Our daily provision for vulnerable and key worker children will also continue after the half term break. Further information will follow for this group; if you think that you fall into this category and have not let school know, please get in touch. We will continually review our provision and if there is the capacity, and it is deemed safe to do so, provision will be extended to Year 6 as soon as possible. In deciding which year groups we can initially admit, we have followed the prioritisation order in the DFE guidance, which for primary schools, is Reception and Year One.

In line with the Government guidance, we shall be reducing the risk of transmission by ensuring children and staff only mix in small, consistent groups 'bubbles' (containing no more than 15 children and 2 adults). A number of measures will be taken to ensure that these 'bubbles' do not come into contact with others during the school day. Each self-contained group will have their own base, with their own toilet and hand-washing facilities. Staggered start times, break times and finish times will also ensure that children and staff do not come into contact with one another during transitions.

Our school would love nothing more than to welcome all of our pupils back, but we must prioritise the safety and well-being of all at this given time. We will continue to follow guidance from the Government regarding our provision which may allow us to welcome more children back into school later this term. We are also looking at alternative methods to ensure that children in all year groups are supported with transition activities to support the move to their next class or school.

Further information will be sent to Reception and Year One parents today. Please note that schools have been asked to plan for this phased return at the beginning of June but the Government has not yet confirmed that it will go ahead. We will update everyone at the beginning of June as to whether we will be proceeding with this phased return from the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community for their continued support: teachers delivering home learning; parents having to teach and most importantly the children for their wonderful work, projects and many achievements! Please rest assured that everyone's education, whether at home or school, will continue to be a priority.

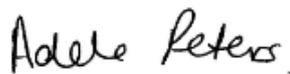
Thank you for your patience and understanding in these challenging, unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sarah Mitchell  
Headteacher

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Mrs Adele Peters  
Chair of Governors