



Shirley Community Primary School

Shirley Pre-School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and your families too, during this challenging time for everyone. Thank you for working with the school over the past few weeks, for encouraging your children with their learning and for taking care of them over such an extended period. We continue to provide home learning and family-orientated activities which are constantly updated - please go to our website and choose your child's year group from here: https://shirley.eschools.co.uk/website/classes_1/81450

Over the past two days there have been announcements from the Government regarding schools reopening. The latest information for parents from the Department for Education can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Yesterday, we sent out a survey to find out your thoughts and feelings regarding schools re-opening. We need to find out how you are feeling about this, to help us with plans for June. Please complete the survey by this Friday (15th) - it will only take a few minutes and will give us a really good idea about who we might be planning for. The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YB8HMKZ>

I would like to share with you the following facts which we know will be the case when the time comes for our school re-opening:

- We will be following all the health and safety guidance we possibly can. The health and well-being of children and staff is our number one consideration.
- We cannot guarantee we will be open on 1st June - schools are working towards this date, but with so much to organise and consider, we do not wish to rush decisions and planning. We are aiming for this date but it may be later.
- School will not be the same as previously. Due to social distancing considerations, we will have to create opportunities for children and staff to spread out wherever possible, and also limit the number of children in classrooms and consider different routes into the school.
- Because of this, your child may not be taught by their normal class teacher. We are looking at potentially 10-15 children per classroom, spread throughout the school.
- Your child will not be in school for the whole day. It could be morning, afternoon or over the lunch period. This will depend on numbers coming in.
- We may have to have children of different ages in school at different times.



- We will continue to provide a mixture of home learning and learning in school, and that is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Children not in school will be able to continue their learning at home.
- Lessons in school will not be the same - we are looking at a mixture of project work, which will involve Maths and English skills, combined with a good deal of Personal, Social and Health Education to help children reintegrate back into school life.
- Schools will not be in a position to have 'all children back by July' - this expectation is completely unworkable at present, and is supported by Headteachers and trade unions across the country. It is vital that we always consider pupil and staff safety and wellbeing. Under the current guidance and recommendations, we will not be able to have all children in as it is not workable or safe.

We are in constant contact with the Local Authority, Department for Education and Trade Unions, and will continue to liaise with them as part of our planning.

We aim to update you as soon as we can on our next steps.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation at this time.

Best Wishes

Mr Cattermole

