

21/5/20

Dear parents & carers,

As you know, the government is hoping that it will be safe for schools to reopen to **some children from June 1st 2020**. We know that we will not receive a final decision on whether this is possible until the end of the half term holiday and we expect to be able to notify you of this decision on **Friday 29th May 2020**.

Although we are busy making plans now, it will not be possible for us to train staff (after the final announcement) in order to open on June 1st 2020. Therefore, our current plans are based around a possible re-opening on **Tuesday 2nd June 2020**.

At this stage, we are still planning how our provision will be arranged. Some aspects of this depend greatly on numbers of children wishing to attend, which is why we need a more definite idea of numbers now please.

We already know that our provision will not look like it used to. The government has issued a great deal of advice that we are obliged to follow. So far we can tell you that:

- **June 1st 2020** - staff will train in the new systems of hygiene, behaviour, health and safety that we are having to introduce. School will only be open to the children of key workers.

- the **first group of 15 Reception** children will be returning to school on **2nd June 2020, if it is deemed safe for schools to re-open**. This slow and steady start will allow us to ensure that all systems are safely implemented with all children.

- the **second group of 15 Reception** children will then return to school on **3rd June 2020**

- the exact timings for other groups returning to school, will depend upon the number of children coming to school. We envisage that the process of inducting children back into school will speed up after the first couple of days.

- start and finish times will be staggered and children must arrive/ be collected during their allocated 20 minute slot. Unfortunately, we will be unable to accept latecomers. **Reception children should arrive between 8:40 am and 9:00 am.**

- when more than one year group is back, you may have more than one child in school. You will be able to drop off and pick up all your children at the same time

- children will be dropped off, at the door, each morning - with strict procedures in place to maintain social distancing between adults in the school grounds

- there will be a socially distanced queuing system in place at the front of the school (no other school entrances will be used)

- *pathways are being marked out and must be followed at all times - there cannot be free movement within the school grounds*
- *there will be **15 children maximum in each group (bubble)**, although we intend to then split them into 'mini-bubbles' with a maximum of 8 children in each*
- *the children in each bubble of 15 will remain unchanged - children will not be mixing with other bubbles at any point during the day, including playtimes*
- *we will endeavour to keep the same staff with each bubble, each day, although this cannot be guaranteed as not all staff can return to school at this time*
- *we will try to ensure that staff are familiar to the children although, again, this cannot be guaranteed*
- *movement inside and outside (including the playground) will be very restricted*
- *resources will be restricted to those which can be easily washed and safely disinfected very regularly*
- *children will not be allowed to bring their own equipment into school, although they can bring their own lunchbox and water bottle*
- *we will have enhanced hygiene procedures in place - lots of hand washing*
- *the government acknowledges that social distancing is very difficult with young children and so it is unlikely that this can be maintained*

We appreciate that this sounds very different from the environment you have come to expect in our fabulous school. Please understand that the measures we are implementing are based on guidance from the government to keep everyone safe. We are spending a lot of time planning how to make this the very best experience that it can be. We will, of course, do everything we can to ensure that your child is happy and settled during their time with us.

We will be focusing on important social skills and wellbeing during this time in school. We will be having fun and re-learning how to be independent in the school setting. We will also make sure that our youngest children still have a love of books and stories.

We know that you will have a number of queries and we would ask you to be patient. We will release more information as soon as we are able to. We will ensure that before 1st June 2020 you have the answers to any questions you may have.

Please complete our short survey to inform us whether your child will be attending if it is deemed safe for schools to re-open **from** June 1st 2020.

At this stage, we are collecting **definite** information about **Reception** children only. Click here to access the form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpT9uS4YxKaZV\\_Nj9Z\\_OTaz7aFajhnpfLLJII6zA8TeXe1JQ/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpT9uS4YxKaZV_Nj9Z_OTaz7aFajhnpfLLJII6zA8TeXe1JQ/viewform?usp=pp_url)

If you have children in other year groups, you will receive forms for them in due course. Please remember that the initial phased re-opening is for pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only.

We will continue to offer restricted childcare for the children of **critical** key workers in all year groups. If your child is already registered with us, you do not need to reapply.

If you haven't used this childcare option before, you will need to apply for this critical worker care by clicking the link here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeitsqn8zTvpZTvoNbJqxgIVBJePIkLPdBfJLxB2SII25CG6Q/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeitsqn8zTvpZTvoNbJqxgIVBJePIkLPdBfJLxB2SII25CG6Q/viewform?usp=pp_url)

I know that this letter will provoke strong feelings and reactions. There will be some of you that feel very strongly that your children should - or shouldn't - return to school. There will be some of you that have mixed feelings, but have to return to work. There will be some of you that still do not know what to do. There may be disagreement amongst you and your friends, your colleagues, your neighbours.

I have been immensely proud of the way in which our school community has supported its members throughout the last few months and I know that each and every one of you will continue to support each other during this time. We will do all we can to answer your questions and to reassure you. If you have any immediate concerns, please email me on [head@thegrange.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@thegrange.northants-ecl.gov.uk), but remember that further information will be issued. All information will also be available on our school website, so please check regularly.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you all that next week is the half term holiday and, with some lifting of lockdown restrictions, I would urge you all to try to make it feel like a holiday for your children. I wish you all a happy, sunny, relaxing week.

Kind regards  
Vicki