

Dear Parents

All our work in the last 3 months has been guided by 3 principles:

- to ensure all our children and staff are safe and well
- to provide high quality learning at home and school
- to protect our vulnerable families and support our key worker families.

What has inspired me during this time is the resilience of our children, their adaptability and hard work, and, the dedication and resourcefulness of all Acorn staff, who I cannot thank enough for the high quality service they are providing.

We continue to prepare to extend our current offer and are really looking forward to seeing the children. As I write, all risk assessments are being adapted to ensure that first principle I mentioned earlier, “all are safe and well” is our top priority.

The school your son/daughter will return to will hopefully feel the same in terms of culture, care and support, however the organisation and daily/weekly structures will be very different. It is highly likely that the children will not attend school every day or all day and will continue with home learning tasks at some point in the week. And, in order to make sure our staff are trained appropriately to adapt to the change in structures, organisation and health and safety requirements, as well as maintain high quality home learning for all (principle 2), we are planning to open gradually for children in reception, year 1 and year 6 in the week beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, as directed by the government, if it is safe to do so. We understand this decision will be made on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Each of the eligible groups will attend school for one ‘Return to School Induction Day’. During the day they will be with the staff who will be teaching them the following week.

The outline plan for all schools is below:

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Health and Safety training day for staff (school closed to all children with the exception of Key Worker and vulnerable)

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Year 6 only (9am- 3pm)

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Year 1 only (9am- 3pm)

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Reception only (9am – 3pm)

Nursery only (to be allocated either an am or pm slot)

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Health and Safety training day for staff (school closed to all children with the exception of Key Worker and vulnerable).

From June 8<sup>th</sup>, the timetable at New Close will be:

<b><u>Reception, Year 1 and Year 6:</u></b> Monday AM Tuesday AM Wednesday AM Thursday AM  Specific start times will be confirmed later in the week	<b><u>Nursery:</u></b> Children will be offered morning sessions pro rata, based on the number of sessions they currently attend.  Specific start times will be confirmed later in the week
The school continues to be open for key worker children and our vulnerable families (principle 3)	

The weekly timetable each school is designing, is creating flexibility to welcome back children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5, as directed by the Government and when the science says it is safe. As I said last week, please bear with us as we strive to provide a new “normal” which feels safe for staff, to you, and, most importantly, welcoming and exciting for the children.

In order to finalise our planning, we would be grateful if you could complete the important [questionnaire](#) or reply to the school office email [office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk) by the end of tomorrow (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May).

**In making your decision, it is important that you read the additional guidance that is attached to this email before completing the questionnaire.**

With very best wishes

The Acorn Executive Team