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Coronavirus Update #12 – Letter from the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents,

As you might imagine, it's full steam ahead at school currently as we prepare to open school to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 along with the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. If the government continues with its plan, then we will welcome these children from these classes back after half term on Monday 1st June.

As parents ourselves, we know this must be an anxious time for you and your families as you wrestle with the decision to send your child back or not. We believe our plans will help mitigate the risk. Without tempting fate, school has already been successfully running since March for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. Please see the letter, 'Plans for Partial reopening on 1st June' for detail which we hope will help you make an informed decision in conjunction with all that you hear from the media.

We still await the final decision from the government, planned for 7.00pm next Thursday 28th May. Yesterday, the Department for Education said this announcement might come sooner. As soon as we know either way we will write to confirm the green light for our plans or not. In the meantime, please plan on the assumption that we will be open on 1st June.

For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, it will significantly help our planning if you can please inform us at the very earliest opportunity if you do not intend to send your child back on 1st June.

For children in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 who are not vulnerable, please do keep them at home if at all possible. For example, if you are a critical worker but there is somebody else at home who can care for them, please keep them at home.

We are trying to create a school environment that **feels safe** for everyone rather than it being simply safe. We welcome any suggestions to get this right so please do feel free to come forward. We wouldn't have got this far with our planning without immeasurable contributions from staff in all departments of the school and feedback from parents. Torbay

KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION

Local Authority has also been very supportive and helpful, especially in guiding our risk assessments. These assessments have also been informed by Union guidance.

School meals are now open for bookings from 1st June.

As part of these plans for further reopening, please can we appeal to you to not visit school if you have any symptoms yourself.

Critical Worker Bookings

Bookings via the School Gateway are now open for children of critical workers from 1st June. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 they can be booked into school on the days their class is not in while children in all other years can book in any day they can't be cared for at home. **Please note that bookings must now be done 2 days in advance.**

Guidance and Reassurance

Here is a lovely story you may wish to share with your child(ren) before they return to school. It is designed to help children feel more positive about coming back to school. Thank you to Mrs Wills who discovered this story and you can find the link on our website or by clicking [here](#)

Guidance for parents and carers as schools and other education settings in England open to more children and young people can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Guidance on helping primary school aged children learn at home to include information on the wider opening of educational settings. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

In case you hadn't heard, the BBC reported on the government announcement earlier this week that testing is now available for anybody aged over 5 years with symptoms:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52713127>

When sending in your child to school, please send them with hats, sun cream already applied and plenty to drink. Please also send a healthy morning snack as our free fruit delivery is not yet up and running.

Covid-19 – Stay Alert

The key message is to **stay alert** which means you must stay at home as much as possible, work from home if you can, limit contact with other people, keep at least 2 metres apart from others if you go out and wash your hands regularly.

The message about symptoms has changed slightly to include a loss of taste or smell as well as having a new and continuous cough or a high temperature. In this case stay at home for 7 days if you live alone, stay at home for 14 days if you live with others, including all household members. Only use NHS 111 if your symptoms get worse or are no better after isolation. Guidance on what to do while staying at home if you have suspected coronavirus can be found here by clicking this link to the [NHS website](#).

The most up to date guidance for parents can still be accessed via this link and it includes lots of questions and answers that you might find useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Department for Education helpline for parents - phone: 0800 046 8687,
Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk, opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Tuesday to Friday next week) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday)

Updates on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

For games and resources about good hygiene and bugs, try the e-bug website which is being run in conjunction with Public Health England. [Click here](#).

Very best wishes to you and your families,



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

James Bennet (Chair of Governors)