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13th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all continue to stay safe and well during this ongoing school closure. I would like to thank those parents who contacted me with positive wishes for Angela as she takes on her new HOS role under such challenging circumstances.

I am sure you are all fully aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening now which included the possibility that schools may re-open for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June, at the earliest. Like you, this was the first time we had any official confirmation of this possibility. The guidance referred to in his announcement reached us on Monday evening and we are currently going through these documents and planning for re-opening.

The guidance is lengthy and additional guidance is being added all the time - it asks us to consider many factors for our children, parents and staff. I'm sure you all realise that, to comply, will mean significant alterations to the school day for all of us, ranging from; accessing the school site, managing lunch times, timetabling and ongoing health and safety, amongst many other requirements.

When your children do return to Probus Primary School, either on 1st June or later, the experience for your children will not be one which we would consider to be 'normal'. Our staff will endeavour to make the school a welcoming place to be, but strict restrictions will need to be imposed to ensure we can maintain the safety and health of all.

It is important to note that within the guidance, the government has acknowledged that social distancing of such young children is not possible, but we will be reducing class sizes and using different timetables and approaches to reduce the number of other children any individual may come into contact with. We are very aware that you will all have worries and concerns about how your children can remain safe in school under such circumstances, but we cannot promise that strict individual social distancing is possible when children naturally gravitate to play together. As parents, you have a decision to make regarding your child's attendance under these circumstances and it is clear from the Government that there are to be no penalties for low attendance during this period. All I can say is that we will adhere to the guidance offered to us and, with the help of the trust, be making decisions with the physical and mental wellbeing of your children at the centre of our thinking.

Further information will be sent to those of you with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 nearer to 1st June outlining how we will provide safe provision for those children and the restrictions we will all need to work within. Please continue to check for school communication through Arbor, Twitter and Facebook during this rapidly changing time and, in the meantime, home learning will continue as it has throughout the closure period. Please stay safe and well.

Kindest Regards,

Lyn McNamara - Strategic Partner

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