

Cheddington Combined School



14th May 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope this email finds you well in what have clearly been a difficult few weeks. Thank you for our support during this time, for many parents, helping the children with their home learning and supporting them has opened our eyes to the role teachers play. I know I have been challenged on many occasions by my children to try and explain how something works, and have had to draw on ancient memories to answer. It has certainly given me an appreciation of the teaching profession and I'm sure you will wish to join me in thanking the teaching and support staff at the school for their hard work both during this crisis time and in normal times.

Following the government announcement on Sunday about the plans to reopen schools across England, I wanted to drop you this quick note to reassure you of the plans that we have here at Cheddington to welcome your children back to school. Mrs Tamlyn and the team are working on plans to welcome the children back as quickly as possible, whilst retaining recommended social boundaries and ensuring that there are no undue risks to the children's health.

I want to reassure you that the Governors put the safety of your children, your family and our staff team at the heart of our decision making. Cheddington Combined School should be a place where children can feel safe and are safe. This is why we are building a risk centred plan to open up the school in a phased way. We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back once we can ensure they can be kept safely.

The Government and Buckinghamshire Council have produced guidance for schools, on which we are basing our school plans. Unfortunately, we cannot simply open the doors to all years in one go. For a start we do not have sufficient classrooms as the maximum recommended group size is around 15 children. For that reason, you need to know that it will take a little while for the school to fully reopen.

For working parents, this could cause some difficulties and so I wanted to let you know this now so that you can plan with your employers for your return to work too. As soon as we have firm details of when each year group will be able to return we will share them with you to make this as easy as possible. We are also aware that for families who have children in more than one year, this may be particularly frustrating. We will do everything we can to increase the school's provision as quickly as possible, however this will be limited as we prioritise ensuring everyone is safe and follow government advice.

Our decision making will be on the basis of; what is best for the children in the school, then what is best for the staff team and finally the needs of the school community.

I would like to thank Mrs Tamlyn, Mrs White, Mrs Curry and Mrs Hamper who have been working hard to plan the return for us this week.

In the meantime, keep yourself safe and well.

Best wishes
Simon Aulton
Chair of Governors.

Working together to achieve our potential

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