

Station Road
Bawtry
Doncaster
DN10 6PU

Tel: 01302 710721

Headteacher: Mrs J. Jenkinson

e-mail: office@bawtrymayflower.doncaster.sch.uk

head@bawtrymayflower.doncaster.sch.uk



18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well during these very difficult times.

Further to my letter dated 11th May, I wanted to update you on the situation regarding the Government announcement about the proposed re-opening of schools from the 1st June.

I want to assure you that myself and the staff in school want nothing more than to be back at school with our wonderful children. We miss them, and our colleagues, dreadfully.

Although the majority of children have not been in school since 23rd March, teachers are working hard on a daily basis to ensure that activities for home learning are set and that plans for teaching and learning once we return to school are securely in place. Additionally, all staff work in school on a rota basis to provide emergency childcare.

Despite some very significant concerns and the conditionality of the government's proposals, I am working with the senior leadership Team, Governors, other Headteachers and the Local Authority to respond to the plethora of Government guidance and to work through plans and considerations for a future phased opening.

The Local authority released the following statement on Friday 15th May:

"Doncaster Council is working closely with schools across the borough on arrangements around proposed school re-openings from 1st June. We are all in agreement that we will be taking a Doncaster-specific approach to the situation and be doing what is best for the children of Doncaster."

Although the Government has earmarked the 1st June as a possible target date for further opening, schools in Doncaster will only open when we are confident that we have the relevant plans in place to do so safely for staff, children, young people and families.

Decisions on when and how will ultimately be made by individual schools with the best interests of their staff and pupils in mind. Individual schools and Doncaster Council will continue to update all parents as soon as we have the relevant plans in place.

Schools will continue to offer provision to children of key workers and vulnerable children throughout."

The Local Authority has also committed to the following principles which have been agreed with school leaders across the borough:

- The safety of staff, children and families is paramount
- Schools and settings need sufficient time and resources to prepare to reopen and operate safely
- Reopening of schools and settings will be a gradual process in full consultation with all stakeholders.
- Every school faces a unique set of challenges and this will be taken into consideration when planning to reopen
- The emotional health and wellbeing of staff and children must be the focus once schools reopen.

All decisions regarding a phased reopening will be made in line with the Local Authority statement and principles. Please be assured that any phased return will be managed with extreme caution and care so that all necessary protective measures can be put in place. While the government has said that it believes it may be possible to welcome back more pupils from the 1st June, the specific groups, number of pupils and the date we may be able to bring back to school will be subject to a rigorous a risk assessment based on our specific circumstances. This will inevitably mean that the phased return will look slightly different in each school and there is no guarantee that all schools will be able to welcome pupils back on the 1st June on a full time basis.

In order to support us in planning for a sustainable phased return, I would appreciate it if you could complete and return the survey which will be sent out today.

I look forward to updating you as further information becomes available.

Regards,

Mrs Jenkinson (Headteacher)

