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20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those parents and carers who completed the survey which we sent out on Monday.

We are now working to formulate a plan and risk assessment for the whole school to ensure that all necessary protective measures can be put in place to make school as safe as possible for children and staff. Factors we need to take into consideration include:

- The size and layout of classrooms to ensure social distancing can be maintained - children will be seated at separate tables and will not be able to work in pairs or groups;
- The layout of the school buildings - we are looking at ways to mark 2 metre distancing in classrooms and corridors and the creation of a one way system;
- How we can organise resources so that children do not share pencils, pens etc;
- Systems to ensure that limited numbers of children can go to the toilets at any one time;
- Staffing capacity - this includes the number of staff who are available to work in school and the working hours of staff available to work.
- The creation of family "bubbles" in order to ensure that children and adults from one teaching group do not mix with any other people from other groups - this will involve designated play areas and equipment;
- Timetable organisation including staggered start/end to the school day, staggered lunchtimes and breaks.
- The availability of extra resources we require including PPE, hand sanitiser and extra cleaning materials;
- The capacity for extra cleaning of heavy traffic areas;
- The number of key workers and other critical groups who require childcare

None of the classrooms in school are large enough to accommodate 15 pupils and their teachers which is the figure quoted in the government guidance. We have begun to set out classrooms in a way that ensures social distancing and it is expected that group sizes will be around 6 pupils. This means that children will not necessarily be taught in their usual classroom by their usual teacher or teaching assistant. It will also mean that during break times children will only be able to play with children from within their family "bubble". We will be unable to guarantee that children will be in groups with their friends although we will consider this wherever possible.

As we need to work to our staffing capacity we will need to limit the number of pupils in school and must prioritise the children from critical groups. This means that not all those who have shown an interest in sending their children back to school will necessarily be offered a place in the first instance. It is also highly likely that school will not have the capacity to open for the usual school

hours as we need to work within the parameters of staff availability, PPA time and the need for more frequent deep cleaning in school.

The government guidance is very specific regarding the creation of "bubbles" - in effect a household comprising of teachers and pupils who do not mix with others. With this in mind we have today been advised that children can only be accepted back into school if they will not be mixing in any other groups apart from their household and their school "bubble". This means that we cannot accept children back to school who will also be cared for by a childminder, friend or other family member.

Thank you for your understanding and I will continue to update you as further information becomes available.

Regards,

Mrs Jenkinson (Headteacher)

