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Executive Headteacher: Ms B Dhami BSc (Hons)

14th May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE

Following the publication of the Government's guidance on the wider opening of schools, we have been busy commencing planning for reopening. The Government's Parents' Guide can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>.

The implications of schools reopening are significant, and this is a very challenging time, however we are doing our very best to plan future provision. Changing and evolving guidance makes our planning even more complicated. When making our decisions, we are putting the safety and well-being of our pupils, staff and families at the heart of everything we do.

It is the Government's ambition that primary schools begin opening to more pupils on Monday 1st June. This is the earliest date for a phased return. Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 have been identified as the year groups which should return first. The Government has stated that they would like all primary pupils to return to school before the summer holidays. However, **this is all conditional on the situation relating to Covid19 in wider society**. What we would like to highlight from the outset is that, due to social distancing requirements, we would not be able to accommodate all of the children in school at the same time. This would mean that we would need to operate some form of rota. What this would look like still needs to be determined so please bear with us over the coming days and weeks as we have difficult decisions ahead.

We are working hard to try and reopen the East Wold site on 1st June for Key Workers children. If you are defined as a Key Worker and would like a place from 1st June for your child(ren), please indicate this on the attached questionnaire. We know that not all key workers have accessed provision to date. At this stage, we cannot guarantee that the site will be open but we will update you as soon as possible. We are then hoping to open both schools for more pupils from 2nd June. As per the government's guidance Reception, followed by Year 1 and then Year 6 are the first children we are aiming to welcome back. We would appreciate it if you could provide us with some feedback to support our planning on the attached questionnaire. We will then plan which year groups can start back and when this would be possible.

When we do reopen, school will be very different and children will only mix with a small, consistent group. We are calling these bubbles. Our idea is that each bubble will be allocated a teacher/teaching assistant. As far as possible we will aim for staff to work with one bubble only, however, this is early days and we have yet to plan our staffing groups. Children and staff would remain in the bubble all day and staggered timings will be in place for arrival, breaks, lunch and departure. Each bubble would be allocated an area of the school and they will not have the opportunity to mix with other bubbles. This is all aimed at reducing the spread of the virus. We are also looking at zoning areas of the outside space for outside learning and there will be different operations regarding arrivals, departure and the office. As you will recognise, there are many preparations we need to make to ensure the site is as safe as we can make it.



We have worked tirelessly throughout the lockdown period, catering for pupils at home and those still in school. We want to continue to make wise and pragmatic decisions for our community, without compromising people's well-being, health and safety. We are working to design provision which, as far as is practicable, meets the Government's expectations. As parents, you are at liberty to make a decision about your own children, that you are comfortable with. The Government's latest guidance is clear that 'usual' attendance monitoring arrangements do not currently apply and that parents will not be penalised if they choose to keep their children off school on health and safety grounds.

Due to planning for reopening, and trying our best to ensure that all staff get a 5 day break over the next two weeks (to allow for the end of May half term holiday), staff will only be telephoning families once during this period (18th – 29th May). If, however, you need to contact a member of staff, please do this via email (to the enquiries address).

We would really appreciate it if you could respond to the questionnaire as soon as possible to support our planning and decision making.

Kind regards



Becky Dhani

Executive Head Teacher