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Executive Headteacher: Ms B Dhami BSc (Hons)

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Schools Reopening Update

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has completed recent questionnaires and provided us with feedback concerning reopening. This has been very helpful in supporting our planning. As you know, the government has decided that schools may be able to open for more children from 1st June depending on meeting conditions regarding COVID-19. The government has released various guidance updates to schools and we are using these and Lincolnshire County Council guidance to plan provision from 1st June. Since my letter of last week, the government has changed the reopening guidance several times and it now states that schools cannot operate on a rota basis. The result of this is that we are very limited to the number of pupils that we can welcome back as part of any current reopening plans.

Throughout all our planning our primary concern remains to be the safety of pupils and staff.

The government has highlighted prioritising the pupils returning to school in the following order: Key Worker children, Reception, Year 1 and then Year 6. In addition, the government states that vulnerable pupils, where it is appropriate for them to do so (risk assessed), are encouraged to attend school. Children, young people and staff who have been classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield and **should remain at home**. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. **Parents of children that fall into this category, should follow medical advice.**

Based on the DfE guidance we are opening both schools from 1st June **for Key Worker children only**. North Cockerington Key Worker pupils will remain at North Cockerington and East Wold Key Worker pupils will return to East Wold. Based on questionnaire responses, we have had an increase in demand for Key Worker provision and cannot finalise plans for wider reopening at this point. **We do, however, know from our risk assessments that we will not open to wider pupils until 15th June at the earliest.** This will also be conditional on any updates in government guidance.

From 1st June our staff members, that are able to be in school, will be back on both sites and we will be finalising plans and operations for wider reopening. This is very much dependant on the number of Key Worker children and our staffing capacity. At the moment, we believe that **if** we can facilitate wider reopening this will be for **Reception pupils only** but this is dependent on various factors and may not be possible at both sites. Any pupils with a PSP or EHCP will require a risk assessment to be completed prior to return and your SENDCo will be in touch with you about this.



It is likely that if we can facilitate a wider reopening for Reception pupils, the pupils with a PSP/ EHCP would start back on 22nd June to facilitate this process. However, as I have said, we are not at this stage yet as wider reopening may not be possible at the moment.

Any phased return has to be managed with extreme caution and care so that all necessary protective measures can be put in place. Our first step is to ensure we have Key Worker provision at both schools.

We attach an information leaflet which provides further details regarding reopening.

The 15th June, the start of any wider reopening where possible, will allow the following considerations and decisions to take place:

- support for the wellbeing and safety of staff, children and parents
- availability of staff including possible sickness cover and flexibility – this will be a key driver for us
- preparation of the school site so it is as safe as we can make it e.g. one way systems, clear signage, furniture removal, design of safety zones and no go areas.
- meal delivery both in schools
- staff training – from 1st June we will be delivering training to staff on a recovery curriculum which develops strategies to support returning pupils cope with what will be their new normal and supports new behaviours, anxieties and primarily their mental health and well-being.
- policies updated and shared in light of COVID 19
- increase supplies of cleaning equipment, hand washing facilities and appropriate PPE.
- time to make sure we have fully questioned and challenged our thinking and plans and that we have covered all options. We cannot mitigate all risk – but is this as safe as we can make it?
- appropriate time to fully prepare children and parents of what and how school will look like when they return in order to manage expectations and further reduce anxiety. E.g. photos, virtual tours, talk through concerns/ queries.

We will continue to use Key Worker 'bubbles'. These will be family based to reduce the possibility of infection. In order to plan this effectively, if you are a Key Worker requiring care for your child from 1st June, **and you have not already done so**, please email **us by Tuesday, 26th May** (please include your Key Worker evidence where this has not been provided). We will then be in touch with you concerning arrival/departure times and entry points. If you are a key worker and **will not** be sending your child(ren) in on 1st June, please email me becky.dhami@east-wold.lincs.sch.uk / becky.dhami@north-cockerington.lincs.sch.uk so that I have this information for planning purposes. In addition, if you have not been accessing Key Worker provision to date, and your child has any medical needs, please email me so that a risk assessment can be undertaken.

With regards to attendance, the government guidance states that 'eligible children – including priority groups – are strongly encouraged to attend their education setting, unless they are self-isolating or they are clinically vulnerable. No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason and if someone in their household is extremely clinically vulnerable, children should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to, and the child is able to understand and



follow those instructions.' The guidance states 'that families should notify their school as normal if their child is unable to attend' and 'that parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time'.

Thank you for your continued patience, kind words and support over these past 9 weeks. We hope this letter, along with the attached information helps you to see the clear, yet cautious and well planned steps we are taking to bring our school community back together. We hope that this enables you to make informed decisions about your child's eventual return to school.

Please try to enjoy a peaceful and hopefully sunny half term. We will be in touch again soon.

Kind regards



Becky Dhami
Executive Headteacher