



*Head Teacher: Mrs Jennifer M Gill*

22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Covid-19 update - Phased re-opening of schools**

Further to my letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, I am now in a position to be able to share the school plan for reopening from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please note that this plan is still subject to change, dependent on various factors.

The government guidance, which is not statutory, is *asking* schools to reopen from 1 June 2020, at the earliest, for children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6. This is alongside the provision we are currently offering to vulnerable children and children of key workers.

As previously indicated, the overriding factor in re-opening remains the safety and wellbeing of all children, families and staff. As parents, you rightly expect to be able to send your child to school in the knowledge that their safety is assured. In addition, staff and trade unions expect that we exercise to our duty of care to ensure staff safety and wellbeing.

It is with this responsibility in mind that the Governing Body has made the decision to have a cautious and phased approach re-opening our school. A robust risk assessment has been carried out and this, along with the government guidance and scientific evidence, has shaped our response and proposed plan:

1. We will continue to prioritise vulnerable children and the children of key workers. We will continue to remain open to these children over half term (with the exception of the Bank Holiday).
2. On the 1<sup>st</sup> June, school will begin physical preparation of the school premises ready for further children to attend.
3. **For this reason, school will be CLOSED to ALL pupils on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.**
4. Vulnerable children and the children of key workers will still be able to attend from 2<sup>nd</sup> June between 8.45am and 3.30pm.
5. Our risk assessment indicates that it is easier to achieve social distancing with older children. Consequently, we will begin the phased return of our **Year 6 cohort only on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**
6. Following a review of the risk assessment, an evaluation of the effectiveness of measures put in place and considering any further Government guidance, we may then be in a position to admit a further year group, most likely to be Y1 children, from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.
7. As we must continue to prioritise children of key workers and those who are vulnerable, places will be limited and at this point we do not have a clear picture of what the level of demand will be.
8. We will only be able to admit those children who are invited back and cannot accommodate any others.
9. Due to the significant challenges faced in planning the logistics and organisation of this reopening, there will be no scope for movement of pupils between groups or timings.

**Next steps:**

**Key workers** – if you will need to access school provision from 2<sup>nd</sup> June and have not already been doing so, you **must** complete the online SurveyMonkey form (link to be sent via text) in full and submit it **at least a week** before you will need this provision. Please note that places are reserved for children of *key workers* and *proof of this will be required.*

Additionally, children should only be coming into school when parents are not able to care for them at home. If you are not at work or working from home on any day, please do not send them into school.

**Year 6 parents/carers** – please complete the online SurveyMonkey form (link to be sent by separate text) to enable us to determine who we will expect in school from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June so that registers can be collated. You will receive a further letter detailing arrangements and instructions after half term.

**Arrangements for key worker and vulnerable children from 2<sup>nd</sup> June:**

- Timings – 8.45am to 3.30pm – ensure that you maintain social distancing in Stanley Street
- Parents will not be permitted entry to the school site
- 1 parent to drop off child at the KS2 yard gate
- Children will have their temperature checked on entry (if a child is showing symptoms of Covid-19 – high temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste/smell, they will not be allowed to enter school)
- Children will wash their hands, on entry and throughout the day
- Children will be in small groups which will be kept consistent *as far as possible* with the same adult
- Siblings will be kept together
- Social distancing measures will be in place across the school and will be reinforced throughout the day
- Children will be allocated a desk and provided with a resource pack
- A schedule of activities will be planned but no new 'teaching/learning' will take place
- Children will need to bring a packed lunch, a water bottle and reading book from home (the kitchen will not be in action until later in the half term)
- No other items can be brought into school – **no bags** other than a small packed lunch bag
- Casual clothing to be worn – please bear in mind that children will be going outside during the day, we also request that clean clothes are worn each day
- Should you wish to collect your child earlier than 3.30pm, please telephone the school office to arrange this

I would like to thank parents who have completed the online survey; the results indicate that a significant majority of parents are not ready to send their child(ren) back to school and have expressed many concerns. I fully appreciate and understand these worries; please be assured that we are putting significant control measures in place, based on Government and Public Health Guidance, to reduce the risk posed to children, families and staff - we will take every precaution possible.

I appreciate that this is an anxious time for everyone and it may be a difficult decision to make as to whether or not you wish to send your child back to school. I want to reassure you also that the school will not pressure parents to send their children or penalise them for deciding to continue to home educate. Please remember also, that children with conditions that make them clinically extremely vulnerable or who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school. Any children who stay at home will continue to receive learning resources from school and we will be reviewing how this approached to ensure that it is accessible and consistent across year groups. Please appreciate that there is no statutory obligation to provide work and that all schools will approach this differently.

I also acknowledge that this may not be the ideal solution for many and will undoubtedly cause difficulties for some families but we are unable to approach this in any other way whilst still ensuring the safety of children, families and staff.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your patience, co-operation and support during these difficult times and extend my very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jennifer M Gill (Headteacher)