

12th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure that many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's Statement on Sunday during which he said that as part of careful steps to modify some lockdown restrictions, it may be possible to begin the phased reintroduction of some primary aged pupils by 1st June 2020.

The Prime Minister's words were conditional: "If we as a nation begin to fulfil the conditions I have set out, then in the next few weeks and months, we may be able to go further. In step two at the earliest by June 1st after half-term, we believe we may be in a position to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with reception, year 1 and year 6. Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays."

Further information for schools and families was published yesterday evening, including:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

For the time being, the Government is asking secondary schools to remain open (as is the case now) for the children of critical workers and eligible vulnerable children. Eligible vulnerable children are primarily those with social worker support, children who are looked after by the local authority and children with an EHC Plan, subject to a risk assessment. Our teachers will continue to set work for all pupils to complete remotely using the Google Classroom system.

From the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest, secondary schools are also being asked to plan to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 pupils who are due to take key exams next year, where this is viable. The Government has been clear that this does not indicate a return to full timetables or year 10 pupils back in school or college full time. In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools are being asked to limit the attendance of the year 10 cohort in the setting at any one time and follow guidance on social distancing and other health and safety measures. As we understand it, this remains an ambition and not a certainty, and so the Government will need to confirm this in due course.

Parents/Carers will appreciate that this remains a complex and changing situation for schools and families to manage. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure families that we are closely monitoring and reviewing all information that is being published for schools such that we can design the most effective support for our pupils both on and off site.

Our first priority remains ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of our pupils, their parents/carers and our staff; and we will only begin to phase open the school further when we are reassured that the correct measures can be put in place based on the direction and guidance that we are given and the constraints that we face as a school. As you will appreciate, this is dependent upon a range of factors including staff capacity, timing and other resource limitations.

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I understand that, inevitably, parents/carers will have a number of questions and concerns over the coming weeks and months; I ask for your continued patience as we work through the details of all assessments and plans. We will continue to update families with further information as soon as it becomes available; please keep checking the school's newsfeed/website.

Further general advice and guidance regarding coronavirus (COVID19) can be accessed via:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Take care and kind regards

Yours sincerely

Ms S F Spivey
CEO, Headteacher