



Park Spring Primary School

"Achieving Together"

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Possible Reopening of School to More Pupils in June 2020

I hope that you remain well. Can I first start by saying a massive 'thank you' for the task that you have been given of both caring for and educating our children – as we all know that is not an easy job at any time and the demands of home life and working are always challenging. I also wish to thank all the staff that have continued to work so diligently and with such great care, I hope you feel that we have supported you well over this time.

As you will be aware, we are now moving to the reopening of schools. The government has stated that we should start to provide schooling for **Y6, Y1, YR and Nursery** as well as maintaining our current provision for Key worker or vulnerable pupils. Preparation has not been an easy process as we awaited clear guidance from National and Local government. Detail has trickled through to us over the last week which has meant that in turn our planning has been hampered and that in turn has meant that we were not able to communicate with any degree of certainty as to what our plans would be. However, following the announcement made by Leeds City Council (please see attached letter from Salim Tariq - Director of Children and Families – LCC) we are now clear enough about our way forward and hope to communicate that to you below. They wish us to 'work towards gradually increasing the number of pupils [we] receive at the pace that [our] individual circumstances will allow'.

The most important points for you to note are:

- 1) Everything we have done and will continue to do has the wellbeing and safety of your children and our staff at its heart
- 2) We will not know FOR CERTAIN that schools will be expected to open more widely until National Government announce this as planned on the 28th May 2020 (this will depend on their 5 key tests being met).
- 3) Opening can only take place if we have sufficient staff to make this safe.
- 4) All our actions and procedures are meant with the best of intentions. Some will work, others may not. Please therefore continue to be patient with us and accept that changes might necessarily need to be communicated and made on a shorter notice period than we would normally work to.

We do know that you will need to be making plans and so we will **OUTLINE** our initial plan.

- Half term opening will be Thursday 28th May and Friday 29th May 2020 for the children of Key workers.
- 1st June and 2nd June 2020 will be staff training days. (School will still be open for Key Worker and priority pupils). These will be used to brief and train staff on the detailed Risk Assessments and protocols, that we are in the process of drawing up and that we must have in place prior to opening.
- We will continue to prioritise school places for the children of Key workers / priority pupils.
- We **intend** to reintegrate pupils through a phased approach – this is so that we can ensure our systems and protocols are safe and ensure pupil and staff well-being.
- **Y1 children will potentially return on Wednesday 3rd June 2020.**
- **Y6 pupils will potentially return on Monday 8th June 2020.**
- **YR pupils will potentially return on Friday 12th June 2020.**

For Nursery and Y2 to Y5 school will remain closed until further notice. Home learning packs will continue to be provided.

Families of **Y1, Y6 and YR** have already been contacted and have stated their initial desire to return or not. We will respect your wishes and contact you to confirm your pupil placement. Please **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD** if you have **NOT** received this confirmation as we will not be able to accommodate them at this time.

As we move forward, if you decide that you would wish your **Y1, Y6 or YR child to return to school**, please email reopening@parkspringprimary.co.uk

For ALL FAMILIES it is important to note that school, certainly up until the planned summer break, will look very different to the one we left back in March. The driving factor is to begin to return our children to a ‘more normal’ learning pattern. Social and mental well-being will be a cornerstone of our planned practice and a return to the key skills of reading, writing and mathematics will also feature. Weekly learning timetables we will continue to provide for all pupils. This will also form the majority of learning for pupils that attend school. In this way we hope not to disadvantage those children remaining at home- as far as possible.

For pupils to return the following protocols will be in place:-

- ALL pupils (including Y6) **MUST** be brought to and collected from school by a responsible adult to help ensure as far as possible children are supported in following social distancing guidelines
- School days for **Y1, Y6 and YR** will be shorter as start and finishing times will be staggered to help maintain social distancing
- Learning will take place in small groups, not necessarily in their current class base or with their current class teacher. At this point the number of children whom we have as returning will allow us to operate according to the socially

distanced 2 metres. Pupils will be seated one per desk and movement will be minimised. We have been asked to create 'bubbles' where the staff and pupils remain consistent to avoid potential cross contamination of COVID-19 between groups. There will be year group bubbles and also the key worker bubbles. Movement of pupils between bubbles will not take place.

- There will be no before and after school provision for those children in year group bubbles (**Y1, Y6 and YR**).
- School meals, where provided, will be a grab bag. Children may still bring their own lunches. All meals will be consumed in the classroom as the dining hall will be closed.
- Pupils will be provided with their own sets of school equipment (pencils, rulers etc. and water bottles – free of charge), for this reason children will be asked not to bring in any bags other than their lunches again to avoid potential contamination.
- School drop off will only be at the main gate (Swinnow Lane) and children will be left at the gate with an awaiting member of staff. For collection you will be invited into school grounds to collect your child/ren but you must not at this point enter the school building unless for an emergency.
- Pupils will be expected to follow behaviour guidelines as per the school behaviour policy. Annex A will be added to the school behaviour policy to reflect the health and safety guidance and to ensure optimum safety and wellbeing for children and staff. This can be viewed on our website and details that, whilst we are an inclusive school and appreciate reasonable adjustments must be made for children with SEND, any child who is intentionally compromising the safety of pupils and / or staff will be sent home and the local authority guidance will be sought on the most appropriate provision for them moving forwards.

For those children from **Y1, Y6 and YR**, **when you receive confirmation of a start date more comprehensive guidance will be provided** to help you and your child/ren prepare for return for example, start times, uniform details, class and teacher allocation etc.

Please note communication re CONFIRMATION of your child's start date will not precede the planned Government announcement currently scheduled for 28th May 2020.

We will be reviewing our practice and provision daily so please continue to check emails, your texts and the school website and Facebook pages for all the latest information. If you have not been receiving our communications, please contact the school office by telephone or email. Please note the office IS NOT OPEN to deal with you in person at this time, unless by prior appointment.

Finally, thanks for your patience and understanding. This is not an easy process and we are doing everything in our powers to ensure the best for the whole of our school community.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Horan
Head Teacher