

Water Primary School

Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I just wanted to write and try to ease your fears and anxiety regarding the phased return of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on June 1st.

There will be some parents who will welcome the Government's decision but there will also be a number of parents who will not want their child to attend and will be worried about the measures which we will need to be put in place in order for school to be safe. I totally understand this and I also understand everyone's frustrations regarding the need for social distancing and the potential emotional impact this will have on children. We are a very caring school and relationships with all pupils is based on trust, love and of huge importance to us all. To not have that close contact with all children is very upsetting and difficult, however I sent out a very detailed action plan to staff yesterday which hopes to address this plus psychological and emotional burden such measures may have on our children.

It will take time to adjust to the new normal, children will have had different experiences of lockdown and we will need to allow for a period of adjustment and be aware of the impact of trying to re-establish these routines for parents and children. We will need to re-learn the rhythm of the school. Time will be given for nurture activities, discussion and the pastoral care which will undoubtedly be needed. Much of the learning will be focused on each child's mental health and wellbeing and their understanding of the crisis.

At this moment in time I am almost certain that parents will not be penalised for their child not attending school, they certainly will not be penalised by school as I am more than aware of how you all must be feeling at this time. All school can do is prepare the best we can, ensure decisions are made in the best interests for all and try to provide comfort in times of struggle.

In order for the school to plan for the future, all I request, is that you confirm your child's attendance over the next few days. This will allow us to develop rotas and more detailed risk assessments and action plans in order to develop robust and rigorous safety plans.

The school will be closed during the May half term and a deep clean of all areas will be taking place, regular cleaning protocols will take place and hygiene of all will be a high

priority. Timings of the school day may alter, as will the days in which children may be asked to attend. At some point during the week, part of the day maybe closed in order to allow teachers to plan. Home Learning will continue for all those children not in school including those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 whose parents do not want them to attend. Forest School will be utilised more during the week and small groups of children will be asked to be dropped off there rather than coming into school. There will be no Breakfast Club or After School Club. At some point during this week we will be explaining further in the form of a video, at the moment we are just trying to formulate our plans and I hope you understand the need for patience and care with this.

I hope this letter helps and all I can say is how sorry I am that it is not business as usual and please know that I, and the whole staff miss you all incredibly and long for some sort of normality to return. As always we are here to help and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any help or advice.

Please take care.

Mr Willan
Headteacher