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Dear parents/carers,

Yesterday evening, the Department for Education published the eagerly anticipated guidance for schools concerning the implementation of protective measures in schools. The suggested earliest date for school opening for a selected group of pupils is 1st June, although this is not a confirmed date. The government states that depending on the data and progress of the '5 key tests', schools **MAY** be able to open the nursery (initially to 3-4 year olds), reception children and years 1 and 6. Children of key workers or who are within the 'vulnerable' groups as outlined by the government will also be able to attend. At a later point of the summer term, schools maybe then be able to open to the remaining year groups.

Schools are asked to make preparations so that we can reduce contact between both pupils and staff in schools as much as possible. In order to minimise transmission risk, the groups must be small and consistent. Small groups will be allocated with the same adults and will not mix with the wider school community.

The government acknowledges that primary school children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart, however we endeavour to do this as much as possible. We intend to spend as much time as we can outside also to help with this. We will also be staggering start and finish times to the school day and also routines such as playtimes and lunchtimes.

Our school is small, not only in terms of staff, but also with the restrictions of space within the building. Our classrooms are much smaller than average and we only have a hall as an additional work space. The challenges are immense but not impossible with a great deal of planning and adjustment. It is anticipated that in the phased re-opening stage, we will only be able to offer part time provision on a rota basis given our restrictions. Safety has to be the priority.

In order to move forward with planning, we really need to form an idea of numbers. Clearly, this will make a considerable difference in the provision we are able to offer. Until this is known, it is impossible to organise how each year group will need to be split. You will have no doubt heard that class sizes have been limited to 15. However, a class size of 15 in our small classrooms would mean that any type of distancing would be impossible. Once numbers are known, we will move forward with our planning and communicate them to you clearly. We will do our best to provide reassurance and adapt to these uncertain and worrying times together.

Aim high ... because everything is possible!



For those pupils in the year groups specified above, I will set up a short survey on the school website for you to indicate your child's attendance at school once school opens. **It has been confirmed that attendance is not statutory and parents will not be penalised for non-attendance.** A quick response to this survey would be greatly appreciated so that we can proceed with our planning further.

I will keep you updated as soon as further details are available and staffing and pupil arrangements have been confirmed.

Many thanks,



Mrs M Ward
Headteacher

