

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wider reopening

As many of you know, we have remained open nearly every day since the lockdown began, providing care for our vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Next week we begin the wider reopening of the school when some of our EYFS children and Year 1 children will be returning. Staff have been into school this week preparing the classrooms and the corridors and we are all really looking forward to seeing the children. Please watch the explanatory video that we have created on Facebook with your child so that they know what to expect when they return.

Sadly, Year 6 will not be able to join us in school yet but we will be reviewing this position on Thursday 11th June after we have opened to EYFS/Year 1 and have a better idea of pupil numbers in the key worker group. So far 17 Year 6 parents have indicated via the survey sent to them, that their children would return to school if we offered this as an option. This would mean that we would need four members of staff for two groups. I will write to Year 6 parents to let them know if/when we will be able to open to this year group when a final decision has been made.

With some year groups returning, I know that many of you will have questions about how we will bring other year groups back into school.

I feel that I need to be honest with you, if the government guidance remains the same, we will find it extremely difficult to welcome any more year groups back into school. We are currently using 3 classroom bases, 5 would be needed if Year 6 return and we will be using all of the staff that are able to work in school to teach and support in these 'bubbles'. We are waiting to see if the guidance from the government changes to enable us to welcome more children back and we will keep parents informed of any developments with this.

This also presents us with other challenges; **parents should note the following:**

- ✓ If your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19, you will not be able to send your child to school. You will be required to get a test by contacting NHS 111. Parents should let the school know as soon as possible the outcome of the test. If the test is negative, the child can return to school
- ✓ Where a child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, the rest of their group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.
- ✓ If a member of staff in the bubble becomes ill with an illness other than Covid-19, for example a sickness bug, the whole bubble will have to remain at home until the staff member recovers. Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff to cover absences at this time and we are unable to invite supply staff into our school.



- ✓ Children will not be able to bring any home learning work back to school when they return- the DfE guidance states that the transfer of items between home and school is not advised. Children will also not be able to have reading books.
- ✓ If your child is in an eligible year group but you have decided that you do not currently want them to return to school but subsequently change your mind, your child will not be able to join a group until the following week; we need to ensure as much stability for the groups in school. Moving forward, we may have to cap numbers to make sure that classrooms do not become over full to ensure that we can keep staff and children in school as safe as possible.

Transition

There are still many unknowns for our children, however we are busy planning classes and staffing for next year. With this in mind some of the home learning for this half term will focus on activities to prepare the children for transition into the next class. Please discuss this work with your children.

Over the past few months we have seen the world change around us. Our children have been very much sheltered from these changes, remaining at home and not experiencing as much as adults in regards to conforming to social distancing in supermarkets and public spaces. The new set up of the school and the school site with spacing markers, arrows, staggered starts, playtimes, lunchtimes and home times will all be very new to the children- this will be our 'new normal'. As always, we will do our best to support the children and ensure that they feel safe and well cared for; I am sure that the amazing Donisthorpe family will get through this together!

Stay safe everyone.

Kind regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher