

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will have heard in the news the government have announced their plan to begin to fully reopen schools, starting with years; Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Schools have now been sent further guidelines from the Government and we are beginning to put together a tentative plan for reopening. These plans will only be put into place, if the infection rates begin to slow further and we are certain that it is safe; we will be watching the news very carefully over the next few critical weeks before we make a final decision to open further.

We desperately want all of the children to be able to return to school however, there will be challenges ahead; trying to ensure that social distancing is in place in a primary school will be one of them. We know that we will also need to make it clear to our children and families that school will not be back to 'normal' for a very long time. Some of the issues that we have been asked to consider are:

- ✓ Smaller class groups
- ✓ Some classes attending for certain days only
- ✓ Reorganising classrooms so that children can sit apart from the other children
- ✓ Planning lessons or activities could take place outdoors
- ✓ Staggered break times and lunch times
- ✓ Staggered drop-off and collection times
- ✓ Parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols to minimise adult to adult contact
- ✓ How to avoid larger groups of children mixing
- ✓ Ensuring that children do not 'share' equipment in classrooms or bring unnecessary items to school
- ✓ Removing unnecessary items from classrooms
- ✓ Removing soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)

I have faced many challenges over the last 10 years as a Headteacher, however these seem inconsequential compared to the situation we are currently facing. My number one priority is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the children and staff as we begin to open our doors to more pupils.

For the time being, the situation remains the same, we are open to some vulnerable children and to the children of parents who are critical workers and have been attending since lockdown began. As I understand it the critical worker category will not be expanded further so we may have to prioritise families of critical workers and cap our numbers moving forward. We will keep you updated on this.



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I hope to reassure you all that we are carefully constructing our plans and as always, we will inform you of any developments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this letter, please email [slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

