



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Friends,

Every day over the last couple of weeks there have been announcements, revised guidance, opinions and 'news' about the phased re-opening of schools on 1st June. As I write this newsletter, June 1st is still being mentioned as a date, but we are being advised that it is for each school to decide to what extent they can re-open safely.

I would like you to know that I long for the day that all of the children at Stubbins School are able to return to class. The current situation is not what any of us would wish for. Ultimately, the Governors and I have to ensure that whatever we offer is as safe as it can possibly be.

A week ago, I began to draw up a plan to enable Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return alongside the Key Worker children. It became clear that we had neither the space nor the staffing to make this work safely. I have consulted with staff, Governors and the Local Authority in order to come to a decision about how we can move forward. Sadly, we will be unable to welcome Reception and Year 1 back on 1st June. We will, however, be open for Year 6 children. We will also be making provision for some children with additional needs, and parents of these children will be contacted by school.

In summary:

- Key Worker childcare will continue.
- We can only extend our offer to Year 6. (and to children with additional needs)
- I have prioritised Year 6 because it is their final few weeks at Stubbins and also they are old enough to be able to understand, and follow, social distancing and hygiene rules.
- Reception & Year 1 will be unable to attend unless part of the Key Worker / additional needs groups.
- The Key Worker Group will split into 2 groups, as there are now regularly more than 15 attending.
- The Year 6 Group will be in two groups of 15.
- Each of these groups will require their own toilet facilities in order to safely regulate and monitor their use.
- The main hall will have to remain clear, as it is a thoroughfare linking each part of the school.
- I will accommodate Key Worker children and those with additional needs in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms.
- The Year 6 children will be split between the Year 6 classroom and the Year 3 classroom, which each have their own toilet facilities.

The following points made in last week's newsletter are still valid:

- Home learning resources will continue to be provided for all year groups.
- School will be different. Many of the things we do, will not be possible because we will need to keep everything hygienic and avoid sharing as much as possible.
- Children will not be back in whole classes – we have been advised 15 children in a group at the most, and those groups are to be kept apart during the whole school day –separate playtimes,

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Mr. J. DANSON

meals served in classrooms etc. Clearly this means that your child may not be taught by their current teacher.

- We will implement social distancing for the children where possible, and classrooms are being re-arranged to make this possible.
- Hygiene is obviously vital, and we are ensuring that the areas to be used are cleanable and that hand soap, paper towels, disposable tissues etc. are all available.
- I absolutely understand that parents need to see our plan before they commit to sending their child in. I intend to publish this as soon as it is finalised.
- The guidance is that I should strongly encourage parents to send their children into school when they become eligible (i.e. when we open for their year group.) Attendance is not, however, compulsory and I would support any parent in doing what they feel is best for their child's wellbeing.
- School opening is entirely dependent on the Staff and Governors at Stubbins being satisfied that it is practical and safe to do so.

Preparation in school is well underway. Risk assessments will be fully completed next week. PPE equipment, (Face Visors, disposable face masks and hand sanitiser) have been ordered and are in stock so will be arriving shortly. I have arranged for floor signage to promote social distancing to be installed outside (similar to Tesco etc.). Once the final details have been put together, I will send them out with next week's newsletter.

I know that this news will meet with mixed reactions. As I said at the beginning, I long for the day that all the children at Stubbins School are able to return to class. I hope that you can appreciate that our decision is based on ensuring the wellbeing of all. Long-term, we will obviously follow the ever changing advice to gradually get back to normality. I will, as always, keep you informed to the best of my ability. All of us at Stubbins School will continue to provide help and support to our families, whether in school or at home.

I would once again like to thank my staff for the care they have provided during this troubling time, and also thank you, the parents and friends of Stubbins School, for your continued understanding and support.

Stay Well ☺