



Kentidge Way, Waterlooville,
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20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Phased re-opening of school for Reception pupils, Year 1 pupils and Year 6 pupils only

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. You will be aware that from Monday 1st June the Government plans to re-open schools to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, in addition to the existing critical worker childcare provision, if they are content that it is safe to do so. An announcement from the Government is not expected to be made until next week and I'll write again as soon as I know more definite information.

On Monday, I sent a letter to you from Mrs Samson, the Trust CEO, which provided you with some information about a phased return to school for your children. The phased return could start for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 sometime after half term, but may well be delayed. The Government have said that June 1st is the earliest date that we can increase the numbers in our school by full year groups, but that they will make decisions about whether it is safe to do so nearer the time. We are so looking forward to seeing your children again but we must work out how we can provide for them and for our staff in a way that is as safe as it can be.

The top priority for us as a school is to ensure the safety and well-being of our entire school community – families and staff. Every family has a unique set of circumstances and we have been mindful of this whilst planning cautiously and carefully for any potential return. Last week the Government published several documents which contained further details following their decision. Please click [here](#) to read the specific guidance for parents.

We are currently using guidance from both the Department of Education and Hampshire Local Authority, as well as speaking with Trust colleagues and consulting governors, to create a plan. We are completing our own risk assessments and are confident of the following statements:

- Hygiene will be a top priority
- Group sizes will not exceed 15 children
- Children will remain in these groups
- It is unlikely your child will work with their current class teacher or in their current classroom
- There will be no whole-school gatherings
- The timetable of the day will be staggered
- The curriculum will be adapted in light of the current situation
- New slightly amended behaviour expectations will be in place to take account of the situation

Social distancing

You will have heard much about social distancing. The Government guidance acknowledges that social distancing in primary schools will not be feasible at all times: "...unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring back more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures." These measures include frequent hand washing, good hygiene and cleaning practices, and minimising contact and mixing.

Returning year groups' survey

It would greatly help our planning if you could give us an indication whether, if the school is able to open early in June in a phased manner as mentioned above, you are currently planning to send your children back to school. No decision you make now will be binding on you. **The survey is for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only and can be found [here](#).**

Proud to be part of the **UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER** ACADEMY TRUST



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I want to reassure you again that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. Parents will not be fined for their child's non-attendance at this time.

Finally, the government stated an 'ambition' for all children to be back in primary school for a month before the end of the school year. This very much remains an 'ambition' and there has been no further guidance on what that process may look like as yet.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries in the meantime.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ricky Leigh
Headteacher

Data protection notice: Phased re-opening of school survey – 20 May 2020

The survey is created using Microsoft Forms, part of Office365.

The survey results will be used in school and across the Trust to find out indicative numbers for an eventual phased return to school.

The survey asks for some identifying information, but this will not be shared outside of the Trust.

The owner of the form is Berewood Primary School, Kentidge Way, Waterlooville PO7 3BE