

1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are all keeping well. As you may be aware, the Prime Minister made an announcement on Thursday 28th May and confirmed that schools are to begin to welcome children back from the 1st June.

Update on plans to open for more children

I am writing to update you on our plans. The government guidance came out on Sunday 24th May which has given us very little time to plan and implement the recommendations. You can read the guidance here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june>

This week, we are opening for the children who have already been accessing childcare. The Governing Body is meeting on Thursday 4th June to make a decision about increasing the number of children who can attend the nursery. Our numbers will have to be capped at the moment and an admission criteria will be agreed by governors at the meeting on Thursday. We will be contacting you on Thursday and Friday to discuss your individual circumstances and requirements.

We are planning for part-time children to attend either all day Monday and all day Tuesday or all day Thursday and all day Friday. The space will be deep cleaned on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Children will be allocated a 'bubble'; this is the group of children and adults that they can mix with. Children and adults cannot mix outside their 'bubble'. We are dividing up the classroom and playground. We recognise this will be different to what the children are used to and we are creating some handouts that you can share with your child to explain the changes and prepare them for returning to school.

We will be creating a new entrance to the school through the gate in the nature garden and each 'bubble' will be given a different start and finish time.

Learning at Home

We will continue to provide ideas for learning at home and your child's key person can give you individual advice regarding your child. The government have also provided some useful advice which can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We are working incredibly hard to make the school as safe as possible and we are completing and implementing a rigorous risk assessment. We are working closely with the Local Authority, staff, the Governing Body, Unions and Health Professionals to minimise risk, ensure safeguards are in place and begin a phased return to school for some children. Although we can reduce the risk, there still remains a risk of children, staff and families contracting Covid-19 as children cannot socially distance. We understand that some parents will want their children to remain at home and we will support this decision and continue to assist with home learning and keep in regular contact.

I will be writing to you later this week to keep you updated on our developments.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sherwood', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca Sherwood
Executive Headteacher