

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Possible Reopening of Schools in June**

I hope you and your family are keeping well. As you may be aware, Nursery and Primary Schools have been asked to welcome children back to School from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will only happen if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including the rate of infection declining. We are making plans ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.

As you can imagine there is a great deal to consider before we can reopen and the safety of the children, staff and parents is my utmost priority.

The advice from the Department of Education is that children aged 3-4 should return first and the return of children needs to happen gradually. We are facing considerable challenges as a very large nursery school with large classrooms and playground. We are currently completing a thorough risk assessment and we may need to make considerable changes to our learning environment. Very young children find it very difficult to understand and practice social distancing and often need close reassurance from the adults caring from them. All of the different factors need serious consideration before we can open.

The advice from the Department of Education is that children should be kept in small groups and they are not to mix with other groups of children. This will mean that our numbers may have to be temporarily capped. We also have some staff who have to shield and this may also impact on the number of children who can attend. We are also awaiting further advice from the teachers' and support staffs' unions.

I will be sending a survey later this week for you to complete to help us find out how many families need childcare and which families would prefer to stay at home. To reduce the number of people coming into the school during the day we will only offer the 15 hours over two and a half days, either all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning or Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and all day Friday. You will be asked to state your preference in the survey.

I hope you understand the challenging circumstances we are facing, we are following the guidance from the Department of Education, Southwark Local Authority and Unions to ensure we can offer a safe service to your child and I will write to you next week with further information. While you are at home with your child, please use this time to teach them to cover their coughs and sneezes with their elbow, blow their nose with a tissue and put the tissue in the bin and to wash their hands for 20 seconds and dry them thoroughly.

Yours faithfully,



Rebecca Sherwood  
**Executive Headteacher**