

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to those who responded to our survey about whether your child would attend face-to-face sessions at school, if they became available after 1<sup>st</sup> June.

The results of the survey showed an almost 50/50 split in terms of your views on this, which is understandable. Everybody's individual circumstances are different, and we all have varying approaches to risk. However, there are enough of you who want your child to have some face-to-face contact with school for us to continue planning for that.

That planning is extensive, and entirely based on creating the safest environment for any students and staff who will be in attendance. We are staying up to date with the latest safety guidance for schools issued by the government, the local authority, and our own independent health & safety advisers.

However, that planning is far from complete. The government itself has said that it won't be until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May before it can confirm its own plans regarding schools re-opening. You will be familiar with the 'five tests' that they say must be met. The government also said it would provide secondary schools with further guidance on re-opening last Friday. To date, this guidance has still not been published.

That makes it unrealistic that we will be ready to open in the following week, given that we will need to complete all risk assessments and have them independently checked, consult with and train staff in safety procedures, and get governor approval for re-opening.

When I am clear that it is safe for all parties to re-open the school, I will write to you again with details of our arrangements. I anticipate writing to you in the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June which means, as yet, I am unable to give you a date when the school will be re-opening.

When we do re-open, school will feel very different to normal and we will need the highest level of cooperation from students and support from parents to keep everybody safe. For instance, it is unlikely that students will be in school for full days. They won't be moving around the site, or having any social time while in school.

Finally, I want to reassure parents and students that we will continue to provide work for those that do not come back to school yet. Thank you once again for your support.



Jon Mellor  
Headteacher