



Dear Parents

We are writing to you with regards to the Government's recent announcement that Primary Schools may open for Reception, and Years 1 and 6 by at the earliest 1st June. This of course, would be in addition to the children of Key workers, for whom we have been open since the 'lockdown' began.

We are receiving updated guidance from the Department for Education on a regular basis, because it is absolutely essential that the school environment is safe for the children to be here, and, as importantly, the staff who would be caring for them.

We realise that the thought of children returning to school in such numbers, will cause many anxieties to you as parents, just as it will for the large numbers of staff who will have to be in school.

We are putting together a plan of action, the intention of which, will be to ensure that whatever provision we offer, is done so with the health and safety of everybody at its forefront.

We have to consider such issues as maintaining the best possible Social distancing; ensuring class sizes allow for this; the regular cleaning of the areas being used; managing any movement around the school very carefully; making sure that breaks and lunchtimes are organised with all these factors in mind; making sure that toileting is done safely; ensuring there is regular hand hygiene, and arranging dropping off and picking up children by yourselves is done safely. There are a whole host of other issues, but we have to be sure that at the end of the day, everyone in school is protected to the best of our abilities. Your children and my staff are very precious to me.

We obviously have a number of strategies already in place, because we've had a number of children in school on a constant basis, even through the Easter holiday, and we have to ensure that we can safely upscale our operation.

We have already been asked what will happen if parents decide not to send their children in, and the answer is really straightforward. The Government have said that



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no-one will be penalised in any way if they decide to keep their children at home. I can quite understand how that might be your preference.

We do however, need to have an idea of how many children we need to provide for, so this is where we are asking for your support and cooperation. We are asking that parents of children in the 3 Year Groups concerned let us know by email whether they will be sending their children in when we re-open. Please ensure that we have your child's name and class in the email. This will allow us to organise staffing, rooms and all the other issues that will need putting in place.

Please let us have this information to our office@walthamleas.net address as soon as you can.

I can assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that this whole process is carried out in the best possible way, and that as things progress, we will keep you up to date with any new issues that arise, and indeed the arrangements for when we are ready to open for these children.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. We will be in touch as soon as we have anything else to share.

Best wishes

Robert Beel
Headteacher



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