**Partial reopening of the school until the summer holidays**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been asked by the Government to make plans to begin to welcome children back on site from 1st June, should it be safe to do so. We need to take this slowly and plan this phase carefully to ensure we can find safe ways of working. The plan is based upon the numbers of children we can safely do that with. Not more. Safety and well being are the absolute priority

**Preparation and the site**

A great deal of preparation is being done in advance, including training and guidance for staff and completing detailed risk assessments. We need to ensure the site is safe to ensure children can come back to school.

**Contact with school and the main office**

The office will be manned daily form 9-12.30pm for phone calls. Parents cannot come into the school office at all. Any children sent home during the session will be brought to the school gates.

**How parents will drop off and pick up**

While numbers of children will be relatively low, parents will be allowed to access to the school grounds. This will be constantly reviewed and may change. Parents/carers must socially distance at all times, at least two meters apart. Any parent refusing to socially distance will be refused further access to the school site. It is imperative parents socially distance in order to prevent the spread of infection.

**Staff support and preparation to return**

Schools are being asked to do a mammoth task; provide key worker childcare, remote learning and begin to open for small groups of children. If we plan this well this is achievable in a safe and measured way.

Schools have to begin to reopen, but safety is the most important priority. Staff with a health risk will not return to school, unless the guidance changes. Staff in this group will continue to provide home learning for children and will continue to be communicated with and supported as they are now. Staff in this group are really upset that for the current time will have to work from home. But they are an invaluable part of the team as home learning is essential. Therefore I cannot promise that the children who return to school before the summer holidays will be taught by their most recent teacher.

I myself have been unwell for some period of time now with suspected covid 19 and am suffering from some covid related health conditions. I cannot guarantee that I will be on the school site for June 1st and will have to lead the school from home.

I am confident we can open the site to small groups of children safely for everyone, with the right decisions

**Social Distancing**

We need to assume at the outset that young children will find it extremely hard or even impossible to socially distance. Many will have been made to socially distance at home and when they have left the house to accompany their parents to a shop for example. However, I cannot guarantee that all families have followed the government advice on socially distancing. Therefore, all children who begin to access the site will be directly and explicitly taught about our expectations on socially distancing. This will be done in a kind and warm manner. Children need to feel safe and supported, not regimented and frightened. They will be taught the simple rules of regular handwashing and sanitation, moving around the school site and accessing toilets etc. The rules will be simple for the children to understand but you really need to appreciate what a mammoth challenge this is to ensure all the children socially distance at all times

**Nursery age children**

It is not possible to socially distance Nursery aged children, even in small groups. Therefore for health and safety reasons, the Nursery will not offer provision on site before the summer holidays

**Preparing your child for a return to school**

In the first instance children in reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be offered a return to school in early June (exact times and dates to follow). Please be aware that this may not happen if the Government changes the guidelines due to infection rates etc.

During this planning phase we do not know how often we can offer you child a place in school.  **It will definitely not be full time education that they are used to**. After initial investigations, taking into account strict social distancing rules we can only safely accommodate six reception children and year 1 children into each classroom, this would mean that your child may only be offered one day each week. In year 6 we feel it is possible to accommodate eight children safely in Key Stage 2 classrooms. Further details of this will be given to you soon. I cannot guarantee which children your child would be placed with in their group of 6 or 8 and once these groups are set, they will remain the same to following government advice. Also, I previously mentioned I cannot guarantee which teachers they will have but I will endeavor to do our best to make sure it is their own teacher or one they are familiar with. Many of the current practices that we use in school normally will not be able to continue due to social distancing and this will be hard to explain to our younger children. Things that could change are:

No assemblies

Change in carpet time expectations

Using a different classroom

Classrooms being reorganised

Playtime could be on a different yard

Not using the dinner hall for dinner

These are just a selection of the changes we will have to make. I know this all sounds really scary for the children but I needed you all to be fully informed about how school will function during this partial reopening period up till the summer holidays.

After reading my letter, taking into consideration the things I have outlined **could only but all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents please decide if you would like to take up an offer of a place from June 1st)** To do this I would ask you to email your child's class teacher by 3.15pm on Tuesday 19th May so I can begin to plan provision. This provision is optional for this period and you may choose to keep your child at home.

I apologise for this lengthy and in some parts frank letter. I just feel you need to be informed as much as possible with the reality and facts before you make your decision. If you do not contact school by the deadline, I will presume you are not taking up the offer and I will not plan for your child to be in school.

Kind Regards

D.Harrison

B.Hawkins