



COVID 19 update 19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now endured weeks of lockdown and we are still unsure how or when the crisis will end. You have been amazingly supportive throughout this and we cannot thank you enough. As staff we are desperate for your children to return to school and all our lives to return to (some sort of) normality. **However, we have to put safety as our first priority.**

I hope over the past weeks you have managed to enjoy spending time with your wonderful children and have had a go at completing the activities set on our school website. I know the staff have loved having contact with the children. Whilst we know that working from home is not the same for children, it was a decision made by the government to protect us all.

When will school re-open?

Last week the government made a series of announcements which need a little unpicking and clarifying. Firstly, they stated that children from certain age groups may begin to return to school from the 1st June **IF** the 5 criteria have been met.

Monday 1st June 2020 school will be closed to all pupils, including our key-worker provision. This will allow staff to be trained on the new way of working safely. As you will appreciate, this will then enable them to be better prepared to provide a safe environment for your children when they return.

This return date is not guaranteed as it must be based on rigorous risk assessments which will ensure we have the staff, space and safety measures in place.

Ministers also stated that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 would return. St George's aim is to do it slowly so we can monitor the safety every step of the way. Therefore, we will begin with Year 6 and expand our provision in stages.

Children who are currently shielding or live with a parent/carer who is in the medically most vulnerable group cannot return to school. Any child not in school will continue to be supported with learning at home.

Over the course of this week we are going to start to contact you to gain your views about your child returning. Please look out for texts, emails and phone calls. A short survey will be emailed to you today – it will only take a minute to complete. Currently we have been advised that no parent will be penalised for not sending their child in.





What will school be like if I choose for my child to return when their year group is invited?

Although further guidance will no doubt be sent out to school, we have currently planned the phased return to meet the guidance already in place. Some key features are:

- Children will be in groups of no more than 15 children 'social bubbles'
- Each group will have a key adult and a space but they will not be able to access other classrooms
- Each group of 15 will not mix with any other group
- They will remain in this group of 15 until the government tells us we can relax the rules around social distancing
- Classrooms will be set up to allow social distancing to be as successful as possible
- Children will be only allowed to use their own equipment (e.g. pencils/pens). We will provide new sets for all the children.
- There will be no group work, little social interaction between children, regular handwashing and no team games as we need to maintain social distancing in the best way we can.
- Playtimes will be staggered so the groups of 15 will have their own allocated time and space, our health mentor has created social distance games that can be played outside safely
- The start and the end of the day will be staggered so that we do not have too many parents/carers dropping off at a time.
- School meals will take place in the designated space for the group of 15.
- Each week we will need to do a deep clean so it is likely that the school will close on Wednesdays to enable this to happen. This would be for all children including critical workers.
- There will be no before school or after school clubs because this would mean children interacting with other groups.
- A child with any symptom of COVID 19 will not be allowed into the school.
- Parents/Carers will not be allowed onto the school premises (including playgrounds). Parents may enter the school office following the social distancing guidelines indicated.

As you see – not a normal school experience – but we wanted you to have as much information as possible as we move forward.

I will keep you informed every step of the way as we are all in this together. There are no rule books to be followed in these unprecedented times.

You need to know that I will make every decision based on the safety of your children and the staff.

We appreciate your continued support as we move forward – we will get through this together!

Best wishes and stay safe,

Andrew Rojas
Headteacher

