



June 2020

PRIMARY SCHOOLS' FLEXIBILITY TO BRING BACK MORE PUPILS

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

You might have heard earlier this week that the Department for Education updated the guidance issued to primary schools to give me more flexibility to bring additional children back into school.

Before we welcomed our Year 6 children back into school on 1st June, Miss Bessey and I undertook complete risk assessments of our building, our systems and procedures, with the aim of keeping all our children and staff as safe as possible. These were reviewed by our full governing body. I wrote lengthy letters to our Year 6 and critical worker parents at that time outlining all the risk factors and the interventions we had put in place. We continually review our risk assessments. One of our major issues is that our upstairs classrooms become extremely hot in the summer and can only be cooled with the air conditioning units that are in each room. The guidance we have received is clear that such units should NOT be used and that rooms should be well ventilated using only natural ventilation (open windows). This week the temperature outside has not been unduly hot but in the upstairs rooms it has been quite unbearable and I could not possibly ask our children or staff to spend time in such conditions.

The result of this is that the number of bubbles is limited to the number of downstairs rooms we have. Starting next week, we will open a third bubble of critical worker children in our community room (which is smaller than our classrooms and therefore limited to 6 children). We have four Year 6 bubbles each of 10 children. I therefore have little if any flexibility to welcome any children back to school in addition to those already in school. Rest assured neither I nor my staff want any of our wonderful children to miss one more day of school than is absolutely necessary. Every decision I make always has the health, safety and well-being of our school community at its heart.

I know you share my absolute desire to keep everyone safe and well.

Very best wishes

Peter Howard
Headteacher