



21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re. An update on our current situation  
Preparing for the re-opening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Thank you for the patience and understanding you have shown the school during these challenging times. I am mindful that you have received a lot of communication from me over the last few weeks so I am going to be as succinct as possible. The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Remind you of what we are trying to achieve, in line with the government's directive
2. Give an overview of the risk assessment we have carried out
3. Provide you with the detail around the implementation of the risk assessment
4. Explain our next steps

**What are we trying to achieve?**

The Prime Minister's exact words were: "At the earliest by June 1, after half term, we believe we may be in a position to begin the phased reopening of shops and to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6." And later in the written detail it said... "the government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review".

The government have been clear that schools must prioritise their re-opening using the following criteria:

1. Children of key workers
2. Children deemed 'vulnerable'
3. Children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 (*from* 1<sup>st</sup> June). **Please note: Worplesdon will be keeping the pre-planned INSET day on 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**How has the risk assessment been carried out?**

The risk assessment has been carried out following guidance and best practice issued by the Department for Education, and the Local Authority. In addition we have listened to the views of the scientific community, unions and education professional bodies such as the National Governance Association. At the heart of our risk assessment is the safety of pupils, staff and the families we serve. The Governing Board has worked in consultation with school leadership to assess the risks in our context, and to identify the actions that must be taken to mitigate those risks.

It is important to note that a return to school is not risk free; it will mirror the risks to society, and place additional burdens on the management of schools – particularly regarding social distancing and hygiene. From our assessment of risk we are clear that return should be phased, and school capacity must be bounded by our ability to manage such risks, through maximum class sizes and increased focus on hygiene and distancing.

**How are the school providing the details around the implementation of the risk assessment?**

We have created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document which I attach for your reference. This will be placed on the school website and will be updated as appropriate. We will alert you of any updates by sending you a ParentMail to refer to the document.

**What are the next steps?**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the school will re-open using the new Bubble system (detailed in the FAQ) to a significantly larger group of key worker children and children deemed vulnerable.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June, the school **may** be able to re-open to more children. On 25<sup>th</sup> May we will be sending a form to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 'non key worker' parents, which will ask you to either request or decline a 'potential' space based on the information given to you via the FAQ. Depending on the number of requests, we may be forced to introduce a criteria for admissions.



Worplesdon  
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Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

*Kareen O'Brien*

Kareen O'Brien  
Head Teacher