



15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware last week the Secretary of State for Education finally clarified the government's position regarding the full opening of primary schools for a month before the end of term. He has accepted that most schools (particularly primaries) do not have the capacity, in terms of both physical space and teachers, to welcome back all students, but went on to say that if schools do have capacity, then government would like them to accommodate the return of more children before the end of the summer term.

As a result of this statement, we are considering what this means for us here at Clanfield CE Primary School.

In the last few months we have been asked to respond, usually at very short public notice, to circumstances we could scarcely have imagined as we entered into 2020. Over the past few weeks, we have been tasked with the complete redesign and reorganisation of our classrooms and other learning spaces in school to ensure it was safe for a phased return of years R, 1 and 6. Following several drafts of risk assessments, this has meant: emptying classrooms of furniture to enable social distancing; sectioning off classrooms; the installation of a gazebo for our reception children ( which blew down within a week) as well as acquiring sufficient PPE for staff. Revised timetables were then drawn up to allocate staff to these smaller groups, alongside opportunities for them to continue to provide work for- and monitor- online classrooms. We were, of course, committed to doing all of this and more and thank the governing body and you, the parents, for your support in delaying the start until this was in place and the school was as safe as possible, following guidelines, for your children to begin to return.

By the end of this week, each child in the year groups allowed to return will have done so for part of the week. We shall then review the measures we have put in place and amend them if necessary. Clearly, if anything needs to change, we will inform you of this in due course.

At present, because of the physical size of our school, and the structure we have planned for the groups who have already returned to school along with the expanding number of children requiring our key worker provision, we have to be honest with you and say that, unfortunately, we currently do not have the capacity to take any more bubbles at this time while current social distancing restrictions apply and have no more staff available to work.

We understand that this situation is far from ideal and is frustrating for both yourselves and more importantly, your children. You, and they, will have many questions about the future, some of which we cannot answer ourselves at the moment, but we are currently making decisions and arrangements to try and facilitate some form of 'half day' or 'step up day' so ALL children can experience time with their new teacher, albeit this may be virtually, or time on the field doing an activity together with whoever we have available. As soon as we have details on these arrangements, we will contact you directly.

As a staff, we know how hard it is at home to try to home-school with everything else that is going on. We know that the vast majority have been keeping up with their learning in the virtual classrooms, but this can never replace the experience of physically being at school. If we were able to bring everyone back safely, believe us we would do it.



# Clanfield CE Primary School

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As yourselves, we await the next announcement from the government to find out what arrangements for September will be. Thankfully, the number of new infections and deaths from Covid19 continue to fall almost daily at present, so we are hopeful that September may bring the opportunity for a normal start to the school year but we can only, like you, keep our fingers crossed at this stage.

As the situation changes so rapidly at present, such as governmental discussions around schools opening over the Summer, it is very likely we will be communicating our responses to you after the government decisions have been made. Thank you for your unerring support over the past couple of months as it has made a very difficult situation much more manageable and ensured we have all been able to stay safe and healthy.

If there is anything else we can help you with at this stage then please feel free to contact us at school – email is best at the moment for obvious reasons.

Warm regards,

Kim Rogers and Kate Smith  
Co-Headteachers

Olivia Hawkins and Lucy Tulloch  
Co-Chair of Governors.