

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you have all had a good week and are now looking forward to half term. The only topic of conversation for this newsletter really is the possible reopening of our school.

As you can appreciate, deciding on what a reopening will look like and when it will happen is very difficult. We have discussed the matter at length with our staff, governors, Partnership Heads, and Local Authority. We have also taken into account the guidance from the government, the children's needs, the staff's needs, your need to return to work and the views of parents.

The bottom line is **“Is it safe for pupils and staff to return to school?”** As we have explained on many occasions safety is the most important consideration for all of us. At present, we are unable to guarantee that the risk is low enough to return to school. Recently, we have all been socially distancing and avoiding meeting up with friends and family in order to reduce risk levels. The leap from what we have been doing, to what we are being asked to do after half term feels huge and we have still not had reassurance from the Government that it is safe to return our children to school. We await more details and have been told there will be a further announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

This week, the School Leadership Team shared with the Governing Body a 45-page risk assessment with a view to reopening the school and mitigating as many risks as possible. It was agreed by the Governors that all the criteria on the risk assessment would need to be met in order to mitigate enough of the risks and open the school. The team now need time to complete these actions to a high standard.

As it stands, we aspire for the school to open in the following way however, this may change following the Governments' announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> May. We will of course, update you after that time on our plans moving forward.

We aim to open the school to Year 6 children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of June. These pupils are invited to attend on Monday and Tuesday of every week until the end of term (w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July).

We will remain open to children of keyworkers on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Thereafter, keyworker children may attend each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from week commencing the 8<sup>th</sup> June though to 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Timings for the above will be confirmed with you after 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The school will be shut every Wednesday for a weekly deep clean and for staff to take their planning, preparation, and assessment time which is a legal requirement.

We will continue to support those children who continue working from home via the online classrooms.

We want to reiterate that we will share more information and guidance when we know more, to ensure there are clear expectations on how to safely return to school, (e.g. what lunches and toileting will look like, whether the uniform needs to be worn, what will be taught etc) and this will come to you after the 28<sup>th</sup> May. We endeavour to keep you informed of all developments.

We are sorry if this causes difficulties for you or your household. We care deeply and miss our pupils but we must do what is best for our school at this time, within the capacity we have.

Please do enjoy your half term break, try to relax and enjoy the time with your children the weather which looks set to be hot, hot, hot! We will write to you again after the announcement on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Many thanks for your continued support,  
Mrs Smith, Mrs Rogers and the Clanfield Team