



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you remain healthy and well. The news this week has been saturated with stories about schools reopening: the guidance by politicians, the opinions of teaching unions and the varying beliefs of parents all in completely different situations.

I have spent today talking to parents, teachers, other headteachers and even the school nurse. I have read guidance and policy, and joined a webinar of advice by the Department for Education. I've also been busy creating our own risk assessments. I can openly and honestly tell you that I still don't have all of the answers, but I'm working hard to plan a safe and effective return to school, whenever that may be.

We have sent a ParentMail form to all Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents asking about your intentions to send your children to school from 1st June, presuming it is safe to do so and we are able to open. Please return this form as quickly as you can to help us prepare thoroughly. If you're unsure, please leave a comment to help our decision making. There are many things we now need to consider, including staggered school timings, lunches, staffing ratios, cleaning, and so on. Matt Hancock, the Minister for Health, said today, "there is an awful lot of work to do in each individual school to make sure that it is done in a way that is safe." I agree and we will communicate all of this work with you before any official opening.

Generally, I believe school is the best place for children. Not just for their learning but for their social and emotional wellbeing. It's the natural environment for a classroom teacher and where we have access to all of our teaching resources. I also believe that it needs to be safe for us to reopen and I respect those who are still cautious. We can't completely remove risk, we can't do that at any time during our lives. We can only manage risk and remove as many hazards as possible. The anxiety of those of you with underlying health conditions and difficult home situations is understandable and you're not alone. I hope we can support each other during these difficult times and, when the time is right for you, you can engage with school in its physical sense.

It's particularly difficult to imagine a world where 3 year olds stay 2 meters apart at all times! The situation for nurseries is barely alluded to in the government's 51-page dossier but we are producing a plan and talking with other schools and nurseries to share ideas and best practice. Our key workers are missing the Nursery children as much as the children are missing them.

Our situation will evolve, our plans may change and we will come to know more of the answers as a new normality begins. Thank you for your patience while we work this out.

In other news, we have decided that next week we'll hold a stay at home Sports Day. I will send home instructions for activities for all of our children and the older children can even take part for their House or class. Adults are encouraged to join in too. I hope this gives us all something to look forward to. Have a lovely weekend.

Regards

Mr Thomas