



Elmwood Junior School

Head Teacher: Mrs A Read

19.05.2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Potential Reopening of school

I hope that you and your families are managing to keep well at this very challenging time. I know some of you have lost loved ones to this terrible virus and that the current social restrictions have made such instances even more difficult to bear. I would like to send every best wish to you all on behalf of the school.

I am sure you have heard about the government's current proposals regarding the wider opening of schools for pupils in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 from 1st June. Schools have been asked to prepare for this to happen, however, I want to emphasise that this depends on further falls in the spread and impact of the virus, as well as discussions with national unions and associations. I think it is important that I outline also that whatever date the government does decide upon, **we shall not bring back all year 6 pupils immediately**, as we need to phase even such a limited return to make sure we are providing the safest and most appropriate setting for our staff and pupils. As always, the forefront of our actions will always be centred on the safety of our pupils and staff.

The government has produced information for parents on this proposal which you might find useful. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Once a date has been agreed nationally, we shall **not bring back all Year 6 pupils at once** but through a phased programme that will be clearly laid out for you. A gradual return will allow us to induct pupils into new systems and ways of working that are designed to keep them safe, and will allow staff to make sure these new systems meet the government's requirements.

These requirements require each school to introduce new ways of working which will include:

- Arrival and departure times staggered to minimise gatherings
- Class sizes limited to 15 – this will inevitably mean that pupils are unlikely to be taught by their regular teachers.
- Pupils working in the same group through each day they attend and engagement between groups restricted.
- Lunch and break times rearranged
- Increased access to hand washing and hygiene routines.

I also need to emphasise that siblings of pupils in year groups other than those identified by the government will not be able to attend. I know that this may cause difficulties for families, but it is essential that we implement government guidelines.

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I know that you are continuing to access home learning, and I am aware of how appreciative you have been of the time and commitment of our teachers and support staff in maintaining learning and contact at this difficult time. I am extremely proud of our staff team and the ways in which our pupils have responded with real determination to new ways of learning. I am sure this will continue until we are able to resume regular learning for all.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for your child and our school. Please continue to keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Read

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