



Writtle Infant School

A very special place, where learning has no limits.

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Wednesday, 20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your swift response to our request for the numbers of children who might wish to return to school. While we are finalising our plans, please be aware that the information and guidance is constantly changing and the Government's final decision to re-open schools is likely to come only a few days before 1st June (the likely date is 28th May). Therefore, following advice from Essex County Council, if the Government do give the go-ahead, **the earliest date that our school will re-open is Tuesday 2nd June**, to allow time for any further last minute arrangements.

After detailed discussion with our governors and having taken into account our comprehensive risk assessment, the number of staff available, the growing numbers of key worker children and the number of parents who wish their children to return to school, we have concluded the following:

- 1. We can only accommodate those children in EYFS whose parents wish them to return to school, in addition to the children of key workers.** This follows Government guidance which states that EYFS and key workers are the priority for infant schools.
- 2. The children in EYFS will return to school from Monday to Thursday on a "one week on, one week off" basis** to ensure that the classrooms operate within the distancing limits identified in our risk assessment.
- 3. Children will be placed in "bubble" groups with a maximum number of 10. It is a requirement that children remain in the same bubble, to limit the chance of the virus being spread.**
- 4. Key worker children will maintain the pattern of attendance which has already been established.** If they have not yet been in school during the closure period, we will speak to parents individually about the days they require.
- 5. In order to deep clean each classroom before the next bubble group is admitted, the school will be closed on Fridays.**

I appreciate the challenges these arrangements may create for you all and I stress again that these decisions have been made following an extensive risk assessment. This pattern will run initially for the first two weeks after half term. We will issue more detailed information to parents of those Foxes and Squirrels children that require a place, while key worker parents will be written to separately. Our first priority remains the health and safety of our children, staff and the wider community and we will constantly review our practice, following Government and Local Authority guidance.

Given the priority groups and part-time offer outlined above, if any key workers critical to the Covid-19 response now need their children to return to school from 2nd June, or if we already look after your children but you haven't let us know dates for after half term, please email us by 9am this Friday with the days you require (Mon to Thu, 8.45am – 3.10pm).

Please rest assured that we have not forgotten the rest of our school community and we will continue to provide learning activities, resources and support for all families who remain at home. If there are any changes to Government guidance, we will of course inform you as soon as possible. We will also do as much as we can to support all children with their transition to the next academic year. For those going to the Junior school, Mr. Taylor will be in touch with the arrangements and as I have said previously, we will celebrate your time with us as soon as it is safe to do so. The new EYFS intake will begin their transition in September.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We are all looking forward to seeing the children again.

Warm regards,

Helen Castell
Headteacher

Ralph Bray
Chair of Governors