



14th May 2020

Good afternoon everyone.

I hope you are all well and finding your way through the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10th May and subsequent information updates since then. When I wrote to you all on Sunday evening I pointed to a further update later in the coming week. I am now able to share with you what we know so far. I must be clear that greater clarity is being sought by the Education Sector regarding much of the planned Primary School Phased Return. However we have made progress in terms of planning for a Phased Primary Return.

I have produced a summary of the changes in a document which is attached for your information – produced from information available at the time of writing. I hope it sets out clearly the changes and some of the likely impact regarding the Primary Phased Return for **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**. All of this is conditional on the Government confirming June 1st and School is not likely to find out from the DFE whether this date is to be realised until Friday 29th May. This would not allow School to effectively communicate with you and under these circumstances.

I will be sending you all a Parent/Carer survey tomorrow, Friday 15th which deals with much of the above to gauge your thoughts regarding a phased return and whether if offered a place whether you would take this place up given the current circumstances. This will enable School to look at provision planning and staff models. This will be sent to all parents/carers as the second suggested phase is all Primary School children to return before the Summer break. If you could complete the survey return promptly and by Monday morning that would be greatly appreciated.

Later next week I will communicate with the identified Phased Return year groups to gain a confirmation regarding your child and attendance, so we can plan particularly for staffing and lunch preparation. The school intends on providing a packed lunch for all those pupils attending school eligible for an Universal Infant Free School Meal. We hope to continue to use Edenred for those families in receipt of a Free School Meal not attending school. We will provide a FSM update separately.

I realise that some families will be shielding due to medical reasons and some families will decide that the time is not right yet for their child to return. I wish to offer reassurance that we will understand and support the decisions you choose to make.

I propose any Phased Return for selected Year Groups, would only be able to commence at WPS on Wednesday 3rd June. This will allow the site to be finalised and ready to go. More details will follow if we are told it is safe for schools to Phase Return on June 1st. The start and end of school will be staggered and the school day will be shorter than usual allowing for cleaning and staff planning and preparation. We will share proposed arrangements as soon as possible however they will be subject to change in line with the latest guidance.

I must be very honest with you from the start that any Phased Return will not feel like school is back to normal. WPS will take very seriously the COVID-19 School Phased Return and guidance will be strictly observed. Maintaining the safety of children, staff and all other adults is paramount.

We have very strict social-distancing to enforce and this requires class sizes to be much smaller than usual. To ensure 1 child per desk, 15 pupils per class with appropriate circulation space, will be a challenge. We will be working in smaller groups, the size of the group will depend on the room capacity and staffing availability. Therefore any child returning will not be guaranteed to be with their teacher. Alongside all other considerations the curriculum offer will also be revised. Once children are in the new learning groups they will remain in them for the entirety of this provision. Consequently they will not be able to mix with other peer groups and we must ensure contact with other

learners is minimised completely. Play and lunchtime will be staggered and any movement on or off site will be carefully managed.

We cannot guarantee that children will not be exposed to someone who develops symptoms or indeed has the virus given it can remain undetected and without symptom. However, we have procedures that include isolation space for those that show symptoms and the guidance states that if we have a positive test come back from a pupil or staff member then that entire group will then need to self-isolate for 14 days.

I appreciate all of this sounds very different to our normal arrangements. This is because we must observe all of the guidance provided.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY - To enable School to be ready and to enable staff who have been working since the February Half term break a chance to re-charge, the **Half Term holiday will stand and WPS will be closed to all pupils including those of Critical Workers/Vulnerable children who have been able to attend school since the lock down and School Closure**. I am very proud of our efforts to support Critical Workers and Uniformed Services during this time including providing care during the Easter Holiday period and all Bank Holidays. I hope you will appreciate the need for the school to re-charge and prepare for the next phase.

Learning Away from School arrangements for those pupils not in the Year Groups identified by Government will have access to home learning. However this may be compromised if staff are deployed to manage the smaller classes identified previously. This will be reviewed at the time, however The Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize remains available to all. Home Learning for pupils who have a place available in selected year groups but who do not attend school

The Google matter previously signposted has been resolved and we are able to issue guidance regarding a new start up. We have taken the decision to issue completely new User Names and Passwords for your child. Their old accounts have been archived and cannot be logged into by the children. Your child's Class Teacher will be emailing you directly from their WPS email account which is easily identifiable for you. You will receive 2 emails - one with the User Name and a second with the new password. We will be using the email addresses you have provided us with for ParentPay. I sincerely hope we can restart this platform for Learning Away From School. We do reserve the right to suspend and remove this provision at any time. Please do remember that any information uploaded including photographs and images must have the third parties permission or their parent/carer permission. If you have not received the emails by Friday next week, please do make contact.

I am sorry for the heavy tone of this update. I appreciate there is a great deal to digest and absorb.

Thank you for your understanding during this time and particularly now with Phased Returns for some Primary Pupils.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and support. Please do keep safe and well and pass on my very best wishes and a massive HELLO to the children.

Yours sincerely,
Ben Wilding
Headteacher