



Braunstone Community Primary School

Head Teacher
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Monday 11th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As I am sure many of you are aware, last night the Prime Minister addressed the nation to explain how the country will begin to relax the rules around social distancing over the next few weeks and months. As part of this announcement, the Prime Minister said that primary schools **may** begin a phased return on 1st June at the earliest, depending on how successful the changes in the lockdown arrangements are over the next three weeks.

There will be careful monitoring of the levels of the virus and infection rates during this time and decisions will only be made for schools to reopen if we can evidence that we are able to meet the five government aims to reduce the risk of a new spike in the pandemic. Therefore, **schools will only re-open if it is safe to do so**. If they do re-open, it is planned that primary pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 will be the first pupils to return to school.

Over the coming days, we expect to have some more guidance from the Department of Education as to how we can implement this phased return safely. As ever, the safety of our pupils, staff and families remains our priority. Once we have received further information, we will be liaising with staff, the Local Authority and parents to formulate a plan about our phased return. This will take time and may take a week or two whilst schools are adapting to the new information that we will receive over this week and beyond. Please be patient as we work towards this plan – we will communicate our next steps with you as soon as we are able to do so.

You may have also heard that the Prime Minister has suggested that those who cannot work from home are now able to go back to work. We hope that we will know more about which groups of workers this might be today in the next update from the Prime Minister. From here, we will be sending out a questionnaire to all parents to help us to plan staffing in school to ensure that we can continue to meet the ratios for our pupils in school. If you think that you may fall within the new category of those workers that can now go back to work and as you cannot work from home, **please do not send your children to school until this questionnaire has been completed** as we will need to plan accordingly to keep your children safe. We believe that we will know more about the time scales for the next stage of workers to start working in tonight's announcements and we will adapt to meet this need when we have these dates from the government.

We would like to remind you that, for now, the **government guidance still remains that where possible you should keep your children at home** to stop the spread of the virus. It is through following this message that



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we have seen the rates of infection drop. It will be important, now more than ever, that we continue to follow this message and stay alert during this time. For now, teachers will continue to provide the online learning content for your children to access. Again, we will be considering our plan for what our learning provision will look like when we have some year groups being educated at school and some year groups learning at home. It is likely that we may need to reduce the online content we provide so that we can manage the needs of all learners, whether at home or school. We will be sharing this information with you closer to the date of possible return for our children as, by this time, we will have more information about how many key workers we will also have in school.

Just like the plans for school closure, we will be updating you regularly with our planned approach to managing the next stage of the COVID-19 response to the crisis. Just like you, we want to get back to normality as soon as possible.

This is why we will be waiting for government advice and updates before finalising our plan for reintegration. Getting as much information from you will be vital in this time so please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible after it is released so that we can support you as best as we can. We thank you for your continued support and patience during this time.

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