



Bethersden Primary School

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Friday, 22 May 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all the lovely messages of thanks and support you have sent to the school throughout the last 8 weeks. It seems such a long time ago that we had anything even close to resembling normality but, through your support, we have managed to still provide some education for the children of our school. I would like to start by saying a big thank you for the sacrifices you have made and appreciate that for many of you it will have been difficult to balance your own role and supporting with Home Learning but from the learning we have had returned you have done a great job.

As I am sure you are aware from the media, there is the intention to open schools again to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 at some point from 1st June and, as a school, we are planning for that to happen for as many children as safely possible. As yet, no firm date has been set as to when the decision to definitely open will be made but it could come as late as 28th May. Guidance to schools is being sent every day and I, along with my Leadership Group and Governing Body, are digesting the advice and working out what it means for our school. Please be assured we want the safest environment for your children and the staff and will be constantly adapting and developing as we go to minimize the risks. Whatever the date we are allowed to re-open, we will be ready.

To start off with school will be very different but we will have the children's wellbeing, both physical and mental, at the heart of every decision we take. This week staff are in school moving furniture and setting up safety measures and protocols. We will be looking to stagger drop off and collection times, using different areas of the school, using the most appropriate staff to provide teaching in school and teaching for those children not able to come in. We may also need to reduce teaching hours in the short term.

There will be many decisions we need to take in the next couple of weeks and we want to be sure you receive this information. That is why I am writing to you now. **Please read your Daily Update on Parentmail.** Even if your child is not in one of the first year groups to be invited back there is still a lot of information that we need you to see about how Home Learning will develop as we try to support children in school and those still at home. Information about when we can welcome back more children and how we will do this safely. There will also be questions where we seek your opinions sent out as forms. We had a great response from families in Bumblebee and Fox class which helped shape our planning for their children's return.

Over the coming days we will start to post pictures on our website to show how the school is developing in order to allow you to make informed decisions, to have conversations with your children and to reassure you that everything is being done to ensure their safety. The return to school is not going to be easy, with many difficult decisions for us all to take, but it will be as safe as possible with everyone's support. I look forward to working for and with you over the coming weeks and months to reconnect, restore and recover from this time for our children, families and staff

Thank you so much for your continued support,

Stuart Gawthorpe
Headteacher