



Beavers Community

Primary School

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Ms D. Scott. MBE

Headteacher

15th May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are all keeping well, are staying safe and making the best of the current situation. No doubt you will have seen or heard the most recent Government announcements and you will have heard the plans to begin to phase in the opening of schools from – at the earliest – 1st June. The reopening of school is conditional and may only happen if the virus is under more control than it is now and the Government's five tests have been met.

Our priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community: children, staff and families. We do not wish to put the NHS or our community at unnecessary risk and bring children back unless it is safe to do so, nor do we wish to contribute to a second wave of infections and deaths. We are closely following the guidance from professional bodies regarding the safety of all members of our community, particularly those who are the most vulnerable.

We are currently carrying out risk assessments in order to reduce the risk slightly but as soon as lots of children return, unfortunately the risk will be there. Do not underestimate how monumental a task this is: there is much to do and many complex challenges to overcome. There are the considerations of space, hygiene, distancing, markings, protective equipment together with the challenges of providing on-site provision alongside off-site provision. What is clear is that social distancing in school for our very youngest children is impossible - this is widely recognised by the teaching profession right across the country. Our planning will be made on the basis that we cannot accommodate our children safely all at the same time.

Given the level of planning and changes to the school environment that need to be put in place in order to reduce the risk of infection to staff, children and you at home, we will not be able to reopen until the earliest date of 8th June and even then it would not be for all the chosen year groups at the same time. So I would like to inform parents of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 now - your child may not be able to attend school every day. Further, it is unlikely that each of these year groups will be able to attend from June 8th. We will be in touch next week with more details of which year groups will return first.

We would also like to be very honest with you about what school will be like for your child if you decide to send them back at the time we open for more children. School will be a very different place. Children will not be with their whole classes: in order to adhere to social distancing rules, they will necessarily need to be in smaller groups and will not be allowed to



mix with other children or staff in their year group either in class or at break times. Classrooms will need to be rearranged; lunchtimes will not take place altogether nor in the lunch hall; desks and tables will need to be distanced; children will not be able to share equipment or use shared practical resources. Young children learn by touching, doing, being with others and sharing – all of which will have to be limited as far as is possible. It will not be normal. They will not be playing tag in the playground and being in close contact with others. Of course, we will endeavour to make the experience as positive as possible and recognise that children will be anxious: small groups will help with this.

There will be some parents who may feel it is not safe for their child/children to return. **The guidance is clear that parents will not be penalised or face any further action if they choose to keep their children off school. We ask parents to complete the survey (link available in the email) to let us know what they plan to do if school reopens for their child's year group.**

Thank you for the time you have given to reading this and for the support and kindness you have shown over the past 8 weeks; I appreciate what a difficult decision you as parents are now facing.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Scott', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

D Scott, MBE
Headteacher