Dear Parents and Carers,

**School Re-opening Update**

As you will know many schools in Harrow have started to reopen for some groups of pupils. When I wrote to you just before the half term break I explained that we would not be able to reopen at the start of June because of specific challenges we were facing related to staffing key functions at the school due to staff absence, including high numbers of staff who were required to be “shielding” themselves or vulnerable family members. This meant we could not safely open the school to pupils at this time. We are determined to begin to extend our provision to more pupils this term and have been working tirelessly to ensure our risk assessments now enable us to do this.

I can now tell you that we will be partially reopening the school to **ALL Year 6 pupils and also Reception Class pupils** from Monday 29th June. These pupils will return to school in smaller groups of no more than 15, and will be taught by the same teacher each day. They will not be able to mix with other pupils in different groups following government guidance. We will also be introducing staggered starting and collection times for these groups of pupils. This provision will not be full time as pupils will be attending on a rota basis. At the same time we will continue our provision for key workers children, but this will be separate to classes for Year 6 and Reception and will be a childcare only provision.

Due to insufficient staffing we do not envisage being able to reopen for Year 1 pupils and other year groups this term but we will continue to provide online learning for all pupils throughout this half term.

In the meantime, we are putting in place systems to ensure that pupils can return to school safely. These include hand sanitising stations, floor and playground markings so help pupils socially distance, reorganising classrooms and introducing one-way systems round the school building. We will be making a short video of the routes in and out of school, as well as showing how classrooms are being set up to support social distancing wherever possible. This will go up on our website the week after next and we will send you a link to it via School Ping as well.

I will be writing to all Reception and Year 6 parents in the next few days to give more details about arrangements for reopening classes on 29th June. I will also be sending out a questionnaire for parents to find out whether you plan to send your child back to school at this time, along with a Contract we will be asking you to sign to support the school with ensuring our safety procedures are followed at all times. In the meantime, our school Office remains open, but you must contact us by phone or email if you have any queries as we cannot allow visitors onto the site.

**Home learning**

The teachers are working hard to continually update and improve the online content for your children. As headteacher, I am so proud of how hard the staff have worked and are sure you appreciate these efforts as well.

We know that you are doing your best for your children in these challenging times. Please rest assured that the teachers are also doing their best to make this remote learning as interesting as possible.
We have had a few requests for online lessons, however, at the moment it is our policy not to conduct this type of learning which is in line with other local schools. Please also note that the Government provided the excellent Oak Academy site, knowing how difficult it would be for primary schools to run lessons remotely. If you require further support please contact us via the office@belmont.harrow.sch.uk email or click the link for our year group page where you can find further home learning links: https://www.belmont.harrow.sch.uk/year-group-pages/.

Once again, I would ask for your patience and understanding at this time.

Thank you for your continued support and I send my very best wishes to you and your family,

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Shaw