‘A School Where Every Child Can Shine.’

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you for communicating your responses regarding the phased reopening to more pupils post 1st June, 2020. This has really helped with our initial plans around more children returning to school in the coming weeks.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have families who have continued to work closely with us, since 23rd March 2020, in order to follow our weekly, sometimes daily, guidance via Class Dojo. The continued learning through the DFE Oak National Academy launched on April 20th, has been instrumental in supporting the National Curriculum 2014 key objectives for each year group.

We can see from the responses that many of you are concerned about children returning to school - especially on June 1st 2020.

Phased re-opening of Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School:

- It is our intention to return in a phased and careful way, which allows us to safely scale-up attendance and build resilience, as safe routines become established and confidence increases.
- Ensure procedures are managed throughout the day for the required enhanced cleaning schedule in Early Years setting especially.
- We have carefully reflected on the ‘Independent’ SAGE report which was released on Friday 22nd May 2020, and this can be found on our website. One particular statement we have reflected on is: ‘Risk would be halved if return to school delayed by a fortnight: ’Independent SAGE 22/5/2020. (Attached document)
- As a Derbyshire primary school we have also taken into account the Local Authority advice to ensure all elements of a stringent Risk Assessment are fully in place before opening to more pupils. (see below)
- After careful consideration, from the 1st of June 2020, for the first week back, we will only be open to Key Worker and Vulnerable children. As parents and carers are being asked to return to their workplace, we know our pupil numbers will increase during this first week back after ½ term.
- If the Government’s 5 tests are still being met during this week we will begin to welcome back Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 commencing the 8th June.
- If we have capacity to safely accommodate more children, we will then look to offer places to our children in other year groups.

The safety of all children and staff is our overriding priority.

Kindest regards,
Mrs J L Stevenson
Headteacher
Statement from Councillor Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Young people at Derbyshire County Council – 22 May 2020:

“We support the Government in its ambition to see schools opened up to more pupils as soon as it is sufficiently safe to do. To do this we’ve been working flat out to support schools in interpreting the guidance and planning to admit the target year groups announced by the Prime Minister on 10 May.

“This is an incredibly complicated issue to work through. Unfortunately, the guidance so far issued by the Department for Education has not always been entirely consistent or clear on some key aspects and this has created some issues for schools and the council. “Due to the challenges that we’re having to work through with schools, it is clear now that many primary schools in Derbyshire will not be able to admit the additional year groups (reception, year one and year six) that the Government had envisaged by 1 June. This is because the latest advice from the Government is that children need to be 2m apart in classrooms, and that it is not safe to rota children through the week and more time is needed to work through these issues.

“The Department for Education have been absolutely clear with us that the priority remains the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable. In turn we’ve made clear to all schools that from 1 June their first priority should be aiming to increase the number of children from these groups.

“If schools do admit children on 1 June from the key year groups they will need to make sure they have the room to do this safely.

“We will continue working with schools to identify when they will be able to admit whole-year groups in the coming weeks, although for many of our schools this will still be challenging.

“I want to thank headteachers, school employees and governors who have worked extremely hard over recent weeks as they plan for 1 June. I’d also like to thank parents and carers in advance for bearing with us and their local schools while we continue to work very hard to deliver on our collective ambition to get more children back to school as soon as possible.