Dear Parent/Carer

Further to my letter of 11th May I am writing to update you about the school extending the number of children in school from 1st June. I have received many emails over the weekend, some wanting to know when the children can come back and others who do not want their children to return. I can understand both points of view, but I want to assure you that the school will follow the government’s guideline to keep children safe and if you decide not to send your child there will be no penalty.

The government guidelines require the schools to carry out a risk assessment before they can open for more children and the documents related to this were published last Thursday, 14th May. The school is in the process of completing the risk assessment at the moment and it will need to be agreed by the governors before the school can increase the number of pupils.

Priority will be given to critical workers and vulnerable groups followed by Reception, Year 1 and then Year 6. As the children need to be in groups of no more than 15, each class will require 2 classrooms and 2 teachers. In the case of our school the groups will need to be smaller as the classrooms are small. In addition, three teachers will not be able to return to work at the beginning of June due to health conditions.

The groups would be kept in social isolation with different start and end of day times. Only children will be allowed on the school grounds. Each group will be required to have different playtimes and are not allowed to share equipment so will have to have different playground areas. There will be an hourly cleaning regime of wiping down surfaces, toilets and door handles etc. Staff will need be allocated to a group and not move around groups.

The school is currently installing outside sinks so that children can wash their hands before they enter the building, surfaces are being cleared to ensure cleaning can be effective and all soft furnishings are being removed. Classrooms are being arranged to encourage social distancing between pupils.

As we follow in Christ's footsteps, let us grow in love, knowledge and understanding, so that our light may shine for all to see.
Today a letter will go out to critical workers and vulnerable children to find out how many places will be required by this group. Once this number is established we will be in a position to know which year groups will be offered places. The priority after this group will be Reception followed by Year 1 and then Year 6. The school has not decided about the number of days we will be open or the hours of opening yet but that decision will be made in the coming days.

I can assure you that as well as providing home schooling and teaching children in school we have spent many hours planning to extend the number of places we can offer to additional children after 1st June. The guidelines are changing continuously and some schools have written letters to parents which are no longer accurate. I would prefer to complete our plans and know that the information we give is accurate and achievable. Please bear with us at this time and I will be in touch later this week.

Best wishes

[Signature]

Carol Burns

Headteacher

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