



Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary School

Love learning, life, one another and God

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Dear Parents,

Yesterday, the government and the Department for Education shared further information with schools in regard to the possible return for children in nursery, reception, year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June. I would like to share with you some of this news and the implications for all children in school. Please note that, at the moment, none of the information which I am sharing is definite and could be subject to change, including the proposed return date. However, I thought that the school community might appreciate some information about how we are beginning to plan for a careful and well managed return to school.

The Department for Education has stated that children must be taught in groups of fifteen pupils or less and that those groups must not mix with each other if possible. This means that it is likely that all year groups will be split. The provision for children in school will be overseen and planned for by teachers with some groups led by teachers and some by teaching assistants. The children will only be able to learn and play with the children in their group including at lunchtimes and break times. The children who return to school may be taught in a different classroom with different members of staff. We know that this will be quite overwhelming for many of our children and we will do our best to reduce the change and disruption as much as is possible. However, given the new regulations, some level of disruption is inevitable.

In relation to health and safety, risk assessments detailing the procedures necessary to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus will be put in place. We have been told that neither children or adults will be expected to wear face masks unless they are providing intimate care. We will aim to stagger school opening and finishing time to ensure fewer adults are on site at any one time. Children will be encouraged to frequently wash their hands and keep their distance from other people. The local authority is currently working on providing schools in Lancashire with further guidance on how to open schools safely and this information will be used to inform our risk assessments.

The Department for Education has stated that schools do not have to provide a full curriculum when children return to school. We will try and plan as much outdoor learning as possible and the emphasis will be on reading, writing, mathematics and ensuring children's wellbeing.

I will now try and provide some further detail on how the return to school may affect individual year groups, starting with year 6.

Year 6

It is likely that the year 6 children will be split into three groups with Mrs Watson leading one group and teaching assistants leading the other two groups.

As much as is possible, we will try to ensure that our Y6 children have all the usual end of primary school experiences, such as a school play and a leavers' service, albeit in a very different and appropriately socially distanced type of way. However, please understand that although this will be our aim, in practice, it may not be manageable. There are just too many unknowns and uncertainties at the moment to guarantee that these events will be able to take place.

Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

Online learning will continue to be provided for children in these year groups via Seesaw. However, it is possible that parents will notice that the amount of teacher contact will reduce as all members of staff will be in school providing either education or childcare.

The keyworker childcare provision will continue to be in place for those parents who are entitled to access the provision. The operating hours will be in line with the school day and Stay and Play will reopen for parents who need additional care. The new regulations around group sizes, includes the key worker provision. This means that from 1st June, we will only be able to offer thirty places each day for this provision. A new form for key workers will be available on ParentApps soon and we would ask that all parents of children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 who need this provision complete it as soon as possible. Where only one parent in a family is a key worker, we are requesting that parents only use the provision for a maximum of three days a week, in the first instance, whilst we assess the level of demand. The message about the key worker provision remains the same as before; please only use this if you have no other alternative. We understand how difficult it is to work from home and try to look after children as well; many of us have been struggling with this too. However, if at all possible, we would be most grateful if parents could help us to manage this essential provision by only using it if it is strictly necessary.

I have received a number of requests since Monday asking if children can start accessing the childcare provision. Whilst I am committed to providing for as many of our children as possible, it is difficult to start welcoming additional children with only limited notice and I would be grateful if parents could please wait until 1st June until accessing this provision, if their children have not attended during the past few weeks.

Nursery, Reception and Year 1

The provision for the nursery children will be overseen by Mrs Porter and the children will be split into two groups. The reception children will be split into three groups and the year 1 children will also be split into three groups. All the learning will be planned by teachers although some groups will be led by teachers and some by teaching assistants.

We know that some parents will be concerned about this proposed return to school. The Department of Education has made it clear that schools will not fine for non-attendance during this time. Some of our children will be living with people who are described as extremely vulnerable and I know that parents will need to make some difficult decisions about

whether their children will return. In order to help us plan appropriately, I would be grateful if parents of children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 could please complete the 'Returning to school form' on ParentApps. Please be assured that all we are asking for at this point in time is an indication of your intentions and that we understand that people may wish to change their response at a later date.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, we are just at the beginning of planning how to reopen school for more pupils. I am pleased that we will be able to welcome many of our children back soon but also sad that we will not be open for all. I can imagine that where some families have children who can return and some who cannot, that there are many similar mixed emotions.

During the next few days, I anticipate that more information will be shared with schools and we will use this to inform our plans. Once we have more detail on how we will implement our reopening, I will contact parents again. In the meantime, if parents have any questions, queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me at: head@broughtonprimary.co.uk and I will do my best to answer them.

Yours truly,

Carolyn Singleton