



12th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We are really excited about the prospect of our school coming back to life with lots of children in again but it is really important for us all to recognise that this is something that needs to take place with a great deal of caution and forward thinking.

At the moment, for us in school, there is no change to the guidance. We will continue to provide care for children of those parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response and only those who cannot safely be cared for at home (please see full list attached). We know that many of you will be hoping to return to work on Wednesday but in line with Government guidance, we can only accommodate those children of key workers. **Where ONE parent is a key worker but the other is not, please note children must stay at home with this parent.** If this parent has been asked to physically return to work, this may not be possible. If you are a key worker and would like your child to be in school, please complete the attached form and return to TylerM@redoaks.org.uk by Friday 15th May.

We will also continue to provide care for children with an EHCP or who are vulnerable where parents believe it is beneficial for their child to be in school.

We have not received any information to support us with the plan to start the phased reopening of some year groups. We expect that we will receive further information from the Department for Education shortly, hopefully with some clarification.

We will need clear guidance to plan how it is possible to social distance in schools and keep our children, teachers and families safe; how we might start to phase groups of children returning and what this looks like.

Once we have received guidance, we will also need to plan extremely carefully to ensure that we have enough members of staff to supervise pupils safely when they are spread out across more rooms within school. We will also need to review many of our practices to reduce the sharing of equipment, facilities for frequent hand washing and sanitising and the level of social contact with other members of the school community.

For those of you with children in year 6, we ask that you start conversations with your children before they return to school. We are all going to have to work hard to manage their expectations as we do not believe that the final six weeks of the school year will replicate previous years. Year 6 pupils have been chosen so that they are prepared for secondary school. However, with secondary schools closed, transition activities cannot take the same form as in previous years. I do know that many secondary schools are thinking about alternative ways to manage this and conversations have already been taking place between the Year 6 teachers and their secondary colleagues. Many of the activities that would signal the end of their time at primary school such as productions, discos and leavers' assemblies will be unlikely to happen and so it is important that they understand that we will not be able to meet all of their expectations safely.



Executive Principal: Mrs R Surch
Deputy Head Teacher: Mr J Lee
SENDCo : Mrs K Clarke



I'm sure that you can appreciate the extent of the logistical planning that will need to take place before we reopen our doors. Our priority, when planning, must continue to be the safety of all members of the school community and so we need to be prepared for small, safe steps.

We will continue to keep you up to date with any plans or decisions that we make as I'm sure that it will be important for you to know our plans in terms of your arrangements for returning to work.

Please continue to contact us if you have questions or worries about any aspect of your child's learning or well-being. We are available in school and via email if you need any support.

I'm sorry that we are unable to provide you with any clearer messages at this time but will continue to communicate everything we know as soon as we are able to do so.

Best Wishes

Rachel Surch
Headteacher



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