



St Thomas & St Anne's CE Primary School

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~ Caring, growing and learning together ~

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Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19: UPDATE 15.05.2020

I hope that you are keeping well and safe!

I am writing with an update following this week's Government announcements. These announcements were the first official messages that school leaders had received about any plans for a phased return, including potential dates or year groups. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have taken a very different approach to England. Guidance for schools in England to re-open was published early this week, with additional guidance being sent out frequently from the government as the week has progressed (the latest of which was sent out yesterday evening). There are still many unanswered questions and issues that need very careful consideration within these suggested plans.

Having considered what has been published so far from the Department for Education, it is clear that we still require further guidance and clarification before we can begin firm planning for the return of children. We know from our work over the past few weeks that the children find great difficulty in social distancing, particularly the younger children. If distancing is an essential requirement, then this is going to be extremely difficult.

At present, the initial guidance suggests a phased return from 1st June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 Pupils as well as children of Critical Workers and those children identified as vulnerable. To separate the number of children within these year groups and priority groups into smaller teaching groups of no more than 15 pupils creates many challenges. We are also dependent on staff availability and this will also influence decision making.

It is vitally important to keeping our children as safe as possible during this time and to ensure that we put the necessary measures in place to provide as safe a working environment as is possible for pupils and our staff when schools re-open.

As and when further guidance and plans set out by the DfE are digested and evaluated more fully, we will create a plan for our school and inform you all as soon as we have done so. We hope that this will be before half term if at all possible.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Kate Budd