



St Thomas & St Anne's CE Primary School

Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN

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~ Caring, growing and learning together ~

18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19: UPDATE 18.05.2020

Following on from our letter last week, further discussions are now taking place with staff and governors about potential phased re-opening from June 1st onwards.

We have been looking closely at the guidance provided by the DfE and are making provisional plans for extending opening of our school after half term. The key focus must be on endeavouring to make the school as safe as possible for pupils, staff and therefore their families. Through careful risk management and detailed planning, we will strive to maximise the safety measures and minimise potential risk, but we will not be able to eliminate the risk of Covid-19 in our setting.

The provisional plan is for school to be open as it is now, for the pupils of critical workers and vulnerable children. In addition, we are looking at how we can safely open for the year groups prioritised by the government. These are in government priority order - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We are evaluating how many children could safely be in any given class base - but is likely that this will be below 12 pupils due to the sizes of our classrooms. Within these groups, the children will be encouraged to social distance as much as possible, including playtimes. This will be challenging for some children, especially the younger children and is something that we will not be able to guarantee.

As parents you will need to decide what is best for your child or children. Some of you may be shielding or some self-isolating for a variety of reasons, including concern for family members. Our understanding is that attendance is not enforceable and that as parents you are able to make the decision about whether or not your child returns to school in the weeks ahead.

We will send out further information regarding groupings or 'bubbles' as the government have described, once our plans are firmed up, together with information of any potential staggered start and end times to the school day and how the day will be structured.

We would like to ascertain how many pupils are likely to return to school from June 1st onwards. If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, you will receive a text via T2P requesting a response to our question: 'Will you be planning to return your child to school from June 1st onwards? Please reply with a 'Yes my child will return' or 'No my child will not return'. We would like your responses by Thursday 21st May - many thanks!

We will then use these anticipated numbers to refine our planning and to allocate the children to their groups or 'bubbles' and also allocate staff roles accordingly.

When we have done this and once we have completed our risk assessments, we will be able to write with further details regarding the provision that we will be able to offer. This will include the 'bubble' your child will be in, which they will stay in for the duration of each day, their teacher or teaching assistant and their class base, both of which may be different to last term. We will also explain how children will need to be dropped off in the morning and collected at the end of the day and other organisational details for the school day. Please be aware that all of this will be dependent on any new advice or guidelines that are published over the course of the next two weeks and will be very much reliant on our risk assessment that the school, can be reopened as safely as possible. We will only be able to open if we can do so safely.

Should you have any questions or queries, then please contact us at school either by phone on 01743-860400 or via email on admin@hanwood.shropshire.sch.uk

Best regards,

Judy McFall
Chair of Governors

Kate Budd
Headteacher