



Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School

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21st May 2020

Dear families,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10th May, we have been planning for the wider re-opening and return of pupils to school. Subject to risk assessment being approved by the DEMAT Trust Board, we are planning the following:

- the school will continue to provide provision every day for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers regardless of their year group.
- For other pupils, we will be re-opening to pupils in Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 when the government deem it appropriate

Any increases to pupil numbers will be dependent on potential new Government guidance and the risk assessment outcomes which will be reviewed every two weeks. Where either staffing or accommodation is unable to meet these demands, Trustees have requested that schools prioritise Reception and Year 1; if this is still not possible then only Reception pupils will be prioritised.

Weekly Opening

The intention is for schools to welcome back pupils into **Reception, Year 1, and Year 6**. Initially this will be on:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only
- On Wednesdays the school will only be open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils to allow for cleaning.

To aid our planning, we will be sending out surveys every two weeks, in line with our risk assessment review schedule, to help us determine parental demand for places in the subsequent two weeks.

There is a link to the first survey for you to register your intention for your children to attend at the end of the letter.

Keeping Children Safe in School

Following feedback from the previous 'early indicator' survey, I have included with this letter a draft version of a **Guide for Keeping Safe in School** which has a summary of measures that will be undertaken within school to help keep our pupils and staff stay safe. We cannot eliminate risk completely, but we believe the measures we are implementing will reduce the risks that potentially exist. but we cannot guarantee that pupils will always remain socially distanced from each other, especially in the younger cohorts. I can absolutely reassure you that all school operations will be carried out, as always, with compassion, care and with the children's wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. However, we do need to significantly adjust our routines, classrooms and day-to-day operations in the interest of safety.

Making the best decision for your family

Every family has their own unique set of circumstances that they will need to take into account when deciding whether to send their children back to school. For some, the last couple of months has been welcome family time; for others, the daily stress of juggling economic demands with home schooling has been overwhelming. Some children are really missing the routines of school and desperately

want to socialise with others but also have vulnerable family members which mean they are unable to return to school in the near future whereas others are happy to work at home and anxious about the return. Some families are pragmatic about the risk and how we adapt to living with this new set of conditions but others are more cautious. I ask that each family is respectful of each other's circumstances and the difficult choices everyone will be making at this time.

We are desperately keen to be back in school with our children – we love our job and miss them - and know the best place for the majority of children is school. Working with DEMAT, we are trying to do as much as we can to make schools as safe as practically possible but there will be limitations as we know younger children cannot maintain social distancing measures. What I do know, is that the majority of children are extremely adaptable and resilient. They will get used to the new measures probably much easier than most adults! I want to reassure you that whatever decision you make for your child and your family, as a school we will respect that and we really look forward to welcoming all children when you are ready to send them. In the meantime, we shall continue to send out home learning packs which reflect the learning which will be taking place in school.

Please take the time to digest this letter and **if you have children in an eligible year group or you are a key worker, please complete the survey by following the link below. Responses are required by 10am, Friday 22nd May 2020.** It is essential that the survey is completed if you intend for your children to attend so we can plan groups and do not exceed maximum numbers.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BHP46Y/>

Thank you for all your support, patience and understanding.

Kind regards

H Bartley