



Bowburn Primary School

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Head Teacher

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18.5.20

****IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND SURVEY OF INTENTIONS****

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will by now be aware that the Government are pressing ahead with the proposed wider opening of schools and of early years settings from June 1st at the earliest. There is a lot of discussion about this currently in the press, whether this is the right time to do so and if it is safe for children and school staff. We await the outcome of the discussions, and Government have said they will look closely at the levels of infection in the country and other criteria before deciding on any further extended opening. However, as it stands, schools are being asked to prepare for welcoming pupils from nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 from June 1st and to widen this to pupils in other year groups by the end of the summer term.

As I said in my update to you last Monday, the guiding principle for myself as Headteacher tasked with this preparation is the safety of everyone in school.

Whilst some pupils may be able to return, I am sad to say it will be to a very different school to what they are used to. There will be many changes in line with the detailed Government guidance: pupils will most likely not be able to attend every day, we will have to split classes into smaller groups, and therefore they may not be with their own teachers or in their own classrooms; they may not be able to see their friends as pupils will need to be taught and need to play in the same smaller groups. There will be significant changes to the school day in terms of different start and finish times, staggered playtimes and lunchtimes, their learning resources will be limited only to things that are able to be kept clean.... the list goes on. This could be very unsettling for many pupils. We are also expected to keep children apart from each other to keep them safe (social distancing)- something which I think you will agree will be extremely difficult for all children but especially so with the very young children. I have learned a lot about our infants since September- the main thing is that our children love to play and learn together, are extremely social, not to mention tactile ! Keeping them apart will be very difficult, and even as the Government admits in its own guidance, probably impossible.

We are all missing the children very much, we all want to see the children again, we want the 'busyness' of school to return, to hear children laugh, to help them learn and to settle them and allay some of their fears about the current situation. However, we can only do this when the government can assure us that this is safe, for pupils and their parents and carers as well as the staff who work in



school to feel confident that we can manage the change safely and what we are doing is in the children's best interests.

I would like to gauge parent/carer intentions for sending their children back to school to help me with planning. To this end I have created an online survey which simply asks if you intend to send your child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 into school once opening is extended. I would be pleased if you could complete this, it should take no more than a minute and please encourage others to do the same.

Here is the link. **Please note you will need to complete one survey for each child you have in the priority year groups.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/99SG9QL>

It is also important to note that Government have said that parents will not be punished for keeping their children at home, and we will not pursue those who choose to keep children at home. Coming to school is not compulsory at this time. This is your choice, it is not an easy one, but I will support you in it.

Thank you to you all for your support, patience and efforts over the last 7 weeks . I know how hard you have all worked to try to keep your children reassured, happy and learning. It can't have been easy.

Please complete the survey. I will be writing to you all again with more information and updates as soon as I have them .

Kind regards, stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Glass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mrs Glass

Headteacher.