

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your patience at a time when there is so much uncertainty; we do understand the anxiety that this situation is creating. You know that schools may reopen from 1 June to Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils. This is dependent on:

1. The government assessment of whether it is safe to reopen.
2. If we can provide an environment that provides a safe environment for your child.

We know that you will have many questions about this. We hope that this message helps to give you an understanding of the work we are doing to prepare for reopening.

It's a very unsettling time for us all, and we do have to point out that the government guidance has left schools with many questions still unanswered and many concerns not addressed. The government has produced a guidance document for parents that can be found [here](#).

This document does not provide much detail for you in terms of how school will be different, and so we have created the attached **parent fact sheet** so that you can see the advice we are being given in school. Further guidance is being released to schools all the time, with the initial planning framework for schools only being shared late on Tuesday night (12th May).

Our thanks to all those parents that completed our initial questionnaire. We will now also be sending a survey for you to complete. **Please read the parent fact sheet before completing the survey.** Your responses to this survey will help us to get a clearer sense of any general questions you may have, but will also give us an indication of whether you are intending to send your child back to school before the Summer break, should school be open for them. We would be grateful if all parents could complete this survey as soon as possible to help with our ongoing planning and risk assessments. The survey will be sent to you separately on ParentMail. We will attempt to answer your general questions in our next communication home.

The government guidance was published on Monday evening. What we will do next is:

- Incorporate the government's guidance into the action plan that we had already started.
  - Undertake a thorough risk assessment of the school site.
  - Provide a summary for parents in terms of:
1. **When we intend to open.** Whilst the government has recommended 1st June, we will only open when we are sure that appropriate safety measures are in place and when all staff have been inducted into our new way of working.

continued



2. **What a school day will look like.** There will be a very different approach to drop off and collection and we will be implementing a staggered start and finish to the school day.
3. **Details of who and where your children will be taught.** Because class sizes will be significantly smaller, at least 50% of the children returning will be in a different classroom and working with a different adult.
4. **What our education offer will be.**

As a result, we will not be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. You know your children and your personal situation best.

In the meantime, the school is still open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work where you cannot work from home, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

We also know that the government's ambition is for all pupils to return to school for the last month of term. This would mean Monday 22nd June. At this stage it is an ambition and dependent on a number of other factors. From our school perspective, opening fully by this date would be a significant challenge in terms of staffing capacity but we will do everything we can to make sure that we are open should the government feel it is ready to realise its ambition.

Clearly, we would only ever open the school to the children and our staff at the point that it was safe to do so.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support at this difficult time. The strength in our community has been evident for all to see and we will emerge from this crisis stronger and more together than ever before.

If you have any questions, please email [office@hamstel-inf.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@hamstel-inf.southend.sch.uk) and please do take the time to complete the survey.

Please continue to stay safe and well and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Kind regards,



Lisa Clark  
Headteacher

