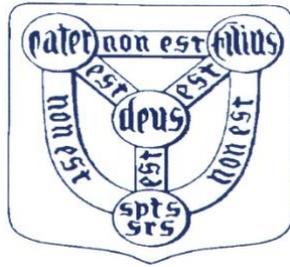


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

21st May 2020

Re-Opening of Schools for Reception, Year One, Year Six and Key Worker/Vulnerable children from the 1st June 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for completing the on-line form or emailing the School Office with an initial indication of your intentions to send your child/ren back to school on the 1st June 2020.

Schools do need to re-open, however the safety of our children, staff, parents and communities will not be compromised. We will take a reasoned and measured approach to returning to school.

In consultation with our staff, governors, other local Headteachers and advice from the Local Authority and unions, we are in the process of completing a thorough Risk Assessment and Action Plan, to set out the decisions taken and measures put in place to prepare for the phased re-opening of the school, to ensure as far as possible that the school continues to operate in a safe way. Oxfordshire Local Authority have confirmed that individual Head teachers and Governors must make their own decisions for their schools, informed by in-depth risk assessments.

We are told by the Government that a decision to re-open schools on the 1st June will be made on Thursday 28th May, but this decision and date may well change.

Schools will be an extremely different place for pupils, and we will need your help to explain and train children into safe and effective social distancing and protective behaviours. Below are details of some of the measures being put in place, but these may change at short notice if staff become ill, pupils show symptoms etc. Some of the main anticipated differences at school will be:

- Pupils will be in very small groups -self-contained 'bubbles.' Each group of children will have 2 members of staff dedicated to them, who will not mix with any of the other groups. One of these will take responsibility for their teaching and learning; the other will cover break times, lunch times, inter-sessional cleaning, and be on hand in case of emergency.

- Pupils will not necessarily be taught by their usual Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant. Staff numbers are reduced because some are not allowed to be in school as either they themselves or a family member are 'clinically extremely vulnerable.'
- Pupils will have a designated 'workstation' and will not be able to move freely around the classroom. There will be limited use of resources and these cannot be shared.
- Pupils will remain in the same 'bubble' throughout the day and will not be able to mix with other groups of children in other classes.
- The start and end of the school day will be staggered to prevent mass gatherings and only one parent will be allowed to drop-off and collect their children/ren. Social distancing measures will be in place and we will ask parents to respect this fully.
- No parents/visitors will be allowed into the school building.
- Pupils will not be allowed to bring in items from home, except a named water bottle and a packed lunch in a disposable container. Sun-cream will need to be applied before the child comes to school.
- Break-times and lunchtimes will be staggered to avoid the mixing of groups. Pupils will need to distance themselves from others during outdoor play. Pupils will eat their packed lunch in the same classroom.
- Cleaning of tables, surfaces, door handles, resources will be carried out throughout the day by the second member of staff allocated to each group.
- There will be increased handwashing/sanitising throughout the day for pupils and staff.
- Gatherings such as Collective Worship will not take place.

We will try to maintain relationships and familiarity with the children as much as possible to ensure pupils enjoy the day, but inevitably it will not be like the school day they have known previously.

PPE has not been recommended by the government for staff and may make children feel unsettled, but we respect the staffs' right to wear it if they prefer. Staff are understandably feeling vulnerable themselves. If a child shows symptoms or has an accident that requires close contact, then PPE will be worn. Pupil and staff well-being is obviously our top priority and we are working hard to minimise risks.

Our teachers are currently working hard to provide home learning and this will continue, but when they have returned to teaching in the school, they will obviously have less time to be on-line during the day. However, we will do everything we can to ensure the continuation and quality of the home learning.

Currently we have one group of key workers' children attending the school and this will increase to at least two groups from 1st June, as more people return to work. As part of an extensive risk assessment, the physical space in each classroom has been measured. In order to maintain the regulated social distancing, each classroom can accommodate no more than 9 children and 1 adult. This obviously poses real difficulties as we need to expand the provision.

Based on the parental responses of potential numbers of Reception, Year One, Year Six and Key Workers' children likely to be attending school, and taking into account the associated risk factors, at this point it is likely that the school will only be able to accept key worker/vulnerable children from Monday 1st June.

Our aim is then to open up places for further children in Reception, and/or Year One and/or Year Six from 8th June, in line with many other schools locally and nationally.

The next step is to ascertain a definite number of key workers' children who will be attending and we ask their parents to complete the attached key worker form by **12noon on Tuesday 26th May**. We know that this will be a difficult decision to make, but you will appreciate that we need to know concrete numbers before we can proceed further with our planning and organisation of the school. The Government have produced guidance for parents on opening schools which can be accessed via this [link](#) which may help you in your decision making.

We understand that there are many unanswered questions and anxieties for both schools and parents. We have attempted to tell you what we know so far but our plans are inevitably under constant review. We do not know how strategies will work in effect and what the national picture will be over the next few weeks. This is an ever-changing landscape, but we will do our very best to keep you informed of our decisions for the school.

With very best wishes and our heartfelt thanks for your support.

Judith R Terrell
(Headteacher)

Anna Marlow
(Chair of Governors)

Helen Wilson
(Vice-Chair of Governors)

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