

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Westbury-on-Severn
CE Primary School**

Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and safe. Thankfully, everyone at school continues to be as well as can be. We continue to miss you all and hope to see you soon – some sooner rather than later!

We are still living in quite a state of uncertainty regarding the phased reopening of schools. I hope that this letter will outline some of the measures we are taking to prepare for any potential phased return to school, and that you will find it helpful.

Now that the government believes it has made progress in reducing the transmission of coronavirus, schools have now been asked to encourage all eligible children to attend settings (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), even if parents are able to keep their children at home. The Government has defined eligible pupils as those who are in Reception (YR), Year 1 (Y1) and Year 6 (Y6). In addition, eligible pupils are also those who are in receipt of an EHCP (an Education Health Care Plan), and those whose parents are critical workers.

Children of critical workers, and vulnerable children who are already eligible, will continue to be offered a place, regardless of the year group they are in.

Whilst the definition of critical workers remains unchanged, because of the potential increase in the number of children who are now likely to attend school, it is essential that I have proof that your child is living in the household of a critical worker and that it is safer for your child to be in school than at home with another adult. The link below provides guidance on who are deemed critical workers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I am aware that there is a lot of understandable concern and anxiety around sending children back to school. With this in mind, I have put together some scenarios which might be helpful for you to determine whether you need to send your child into school or not. This is not exhaustive, and I will have missed some scenarios. If you are not sure, PLEASE contact the school and discuss your situation with me. I really hope they do not cause too much confusion!

- A. You have one child who is in either Reception (YR), Year 1 (Y1) or Year 6 (Y6). No members of the household are shielding or have underlying health issues that make them clinically extremely vulnerable and you are not critical workers. Under the Government's plan, your child who is currently in YR, Y1 or Y6 would be encouraged to return to school on 1st June, even if parents are able to keep them at home.
- B. You have two or more children who attend Westbury School. One or more of those children are in Year 2 (Y2), Year 3 (Y3), Year 4 (Y4) or Year 5 (Y5). One or more of the children are in YR, Y1 or Y6. No members of the household are shielding or have underlying health issues that make them clinically extremely vulnerable and you are not critical workers. Under the Government's plan, your children who are currently in YR, Y1 or Y6 would be encouraged to return to school on 1st June, even if parents are able to keep them at home.



However, the other children who are in Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5, must remain at home. If this is not possible, then you must contact your employer as this is grounds for you to not return to work.

- C. You are a critical worker with children in YR, Y2 and Y6 (for example). As a critical worker, which can be proved to the school, **all your children are eligible to still come to school on the days you need to work.** Under the Government's plans, your children in YR, Y1 or Y6 would be encouraged to attend full-time (5-days a week), **but** your children in other year groups would only come to school on the days you as a critical worker need to work. However, if it is safer for your children who are in Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5 to be at home with another adult in your household on the days you work, then they should stay at home. This helps us to have capacity to remain open to the children in YR, Y1 and Y6 and children of other critical workers.
- D. You are a critical worker with children in YR, Y1 and/or Y6 (for example). Under the Government's plan, your child would be encouraged to return to school on 1st June full-time (5 days a week), regardless of the days you work, even if parents are able to keep them at home.
- E. Your child has an EHCP (an Education Health Care Plan). Under the Government's plan, **regardless of the year group your child is in, your child is eligible to continue to access school full-time (5 days a week).** If they do not attend, this must be discussed, approved and authorised by the school.
- F. A member of your household is shielding due to underlying medical issues and is on the clinically extremely vulnerable list, but your child is in YR, Y1 or Y6. **You should not** send your child back to school, but they can continue with their home-learning tasks that will continue to be set by the school and monitored remotely by staff.

Despite the above scenarios, you may still choose to keep your child at home. Currently, there will be no penalty or action taken if you keep your child at home **even if they are encouraged to attend school under the Government's plan.** I would like to see your children attend school again, but in this current climate of continued uncertainty, I respect your individually thoughtful and considered decision. I am happy to talk through your concerns and, as the headteacher, my first response would always be that your child should attend school on the 1st June if they are in the year groups that the Government are encouraging to return.

The staff at our school have been working tirelessly to prepare classrooms for a safe reintroduction to school. We can assure you that we will continue to do everything we can to keep the children safe from illness and will be encouraging and teaching excellent hygiene and safe working practice when they return. However, I feel it is only fair to make the following very clear:

- I cannot guarantee that your child will not come into contact with anyone else from another year group.
- I cannot guarantee that your child will always keep to the social distance rule of keeping 2 metres apart; especially in YR and Y1, due mainly to the fact that small children find this extremely difficult.

In light of the Government's announcement and in order for us to plan carefully and successfully for the next phase of reopening school, I would be extremely grateful if you could respond honestly to the following questions.

1. Will you be sending your child back to school on 1st June if the Government consider it to be safe for them to return?
2. If no, please give your reason.

An email reply to these questions is particularly important so that we can calculate responses and move forward with planning groups and adults. I really appreciate your help with this.



As soon as I have all the information I need, and further clarity from the Government, I will be able to let you know of the next stage in pupils' return to school. Currently, the suggestion is that we will know for definite on 28th May if pupils will be encouraged to return on 1st June. Obviously, this gives us very little notice, but we will have everything in place by then if we are to return.

Once again, I want to thank you all for all you are doing at home with the children. Regardless of whether children return to school or not, we will continue to support you with learning activities.

With my warmest wishes,



Mr David Crunkhurn
Headteacher

