



13th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am sure many of you have been wondering what the outcome will be from the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening 10th May 2020 regarding the possible phased reopening of schools from 1st June 2020 (this could be from **8th June 2020** for us, after half term) and what this means for your children at The Willows.

School leaders and governors, including myself and the Willows team, have spent many hours reading the government guidance and seeking advice and support from local authority. If and when we decided to re-open school we are planning to implement all the governments safety and protective measures in terms of:

- social distancing in and around school through smaller classes, staggered starts and ends to the day as well as different play and lunchtimes
- hygiene vigilance through regular handwashing
- increased cleaning

If and when we reopen RSP will also restart providing before and after school care. Please return this email and indicate on the reply slip below if you would like a place at RSP before and/or after school. Mrs Fahy will be in touch about her arrangements if you need them.

To be able to draw up an accurate action plan we need to know the numbers of children who may be returning to school. The government have stated that schools need to offer places to children of:

- key workers
- vulnerable children
- children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

The documentation states, '*...we (the government) are encouraging all eligible children to attend - it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home...*' Our school registers indicate which children are eligible due to their year group but we are not certain of the total number of key worker children who might need places.

Therefore, we would appreciate if you could return this email completing the reply slip below if you think you fall into a key worker category and intend to send your children back to school. A document outlining who is a key worker is attached. We will require written evidence from your employer that you fall in to the key worker category.

There may be some children who should not attend school even if they are eligible, these are children who are extremely clinically vulnerable due to health issues. Furthermore, children who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable should only attend if they are able to understand and follow stringent social distancing instructions. If you believe your child falls into this category and does not fully understand the need to follow stringent social distancing and therefore should not return to school, please inform us by returning this email and completing the reply slip below.



A question I anticipate many parents will want to ask is: 'Do I have to send my child back to school?' The government documentation indicates that you are 'strongly encouraged' to do so, however I believe this is a decision for individual families to take and we, at the Willows, will simply want to note that decision. (No fines will be issued at present for non-attendance). Therefore, once again please inform school of your wishes by returning this email with the reply slip below completed.

I am sure you will have many more questions which I will do my best to answer when received. However, the government has produced a guidance document for parents which may answer some of them for you. It can be found following the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

In the meantime please be assured that we continue to seek advice during this planning phase. We want to ensure that it will be safe and practical for children to return to the Willows before making any re-opening announcements.

Don't forget to return this email with the reply slip completed. If you could so by **Friday 22nd May 2020** that would really help us with our planning over half term.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in these strange and unprecedented times.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Warren

Name of child/ren _____ Year groups _____

1) I believe I am a key worker. (Please see attached list) Please attach written evidence from your employer.

Please state key worker role _____

***I intend / do not intend to send my child/ren back to school for the time being (*Please delete as appropriate)**

2) I am not a keyworker but my child/ren is/are in *Nursery/ Reception/Year 1/Year 6 (*Please delete as appropriate)

*I intend / do not intend to send my child/ren back to school for the time being (*Please delete as appropriate)



3) I am not a keyworker but my child/ren is/are in *Year 2/ Year 3/Year 4/Year 5 (*Please delete as appropriate)

***I intend / do not intend to send my child back to the Willows for the time being if school re-opens for additional cohorts (Please delete as appropriate)**

4) My child/ren live(s) with someone who is critically vulnerable due to health issues

***I intend / do not intend to send my child/ren back to school for the time being (*Please delete as appropriate)**

5) *I do/do not need a place at RSP (*Please delete as appropriate)

Thank you

Mrs Warren