

# Springwater School



May 13 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the Government announcements made on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The senior leadership team and I continue to work through the written Government guidance published yesterday May 11<sup>th</sup> – which detail plans to increase the number of children attending settings, if the scientific evidence justifies such a change.

The earliest increase to school numbers is set out to be June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, but of course could be later than this.

As a senior team we are working on **two key tests**, in order to prioritise which children might be able to return:

- Because everyone (staff and pupils alike) have to be safe, we will ask ourselves
  - Can this pupil socially distance consistently?
  - Can they control and manage their coughs and sneezes following the government guidance?
  - What are safe numbers in each different classroom?
  - What is a safe pupil to adult ratio in these smaller groups?
  - Should this pupil arrive or leave at a different time to others?
  - Is a change to their curriculum needed?

AND

- Because everyone is still safer 'working from home' or socially distant, we will ask
  - Can this pupil be just as safe at home right now?
  - Will the adults and other children be safe around your child?
  - Does mixing and travelling increase this pupils' health vulnerability?

Due to the lengthy process of risk assessing pupils, talking to you about your family circumstances and liaising with other agencies if you have their involvement, we anticipate only gradual changes after June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. It is also important that you know that the return of certain year groups is only

something which applies to mainstream schools. We will be risk assessing priority returns regardless of the age and stage of the pupil.

The Local Authority and School Governing Body understand and support the need for careful planning so that we do not increase the risk to any member of the school community and I thank you for your support as we plan how we will support your child in the coming weeks.

The senior leadership team will be contacting all parents by phone within the next three days, in order to hear from you about whether you would intend taking up a place if one were to be offered after June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will help inform our initial planning. Please talk this through as a family as you may decide that you do not yet want to take this step. If that is your decision we respect your right to continue to shield and socially distance within your home and you may be able to indicate to us how long you may intend to do so. Of course, things can change for families and the Government may provide guidance on when more strict attendance will be expected, but as this is not yet in place you still have the choice. At this time there will be no fines for non-attendance and our school offer will be significantly different as we will be unable to offer an off-site curriculum, or any activities which bring pupils close together such as assemblies, intensive interaction, lunches in the dining area or activities which require very close physical contact.

In the meantime may I pass on good wishes from both myself and the senior team, who all wish you well. Please stay safe and keep up the amazing home learning!

With best wishes,

Sarah Edwards