

# NETHERFIELD

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: update on possible reopening of schools**

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on reopening schools – the Government has now published more guidance, and I would like to inform parents of the unanimous decisions made by the Full Governing Body of the school on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Just to be clear, our decisions and plans will change if the Government rules that it is unsafe to reopen schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards.

That suggested return date is the first day back from half term and does not give us the opportunities required to ensure a smooth transition for the returning staff and children. Governors have therefore endorsed my recommendation that Netherfield begins partial and staged re-opening on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.

Firstly, for us, the Government's suggested year groups equate to a potential 243 children returning to school. Based on the Government guidance, in particular limiting class sizes, which leads to a greater number of areas being used and a greater demand on staffing (teaching) and cleaning, we cannot safely manage that number. Governors agree with my assessment of this situation. Regrettably, we are not able to invite Y6 back into school at this present time.

I realise that this may cause concern for Y6 children and their parents and I will continue to look at how we can shape the transition into secondary for these children, later this term.

Children in F1, F2 and Year 1, will be welcomed back into school from 8<sup>th</sup> June, but this will be in a measured way. The key factors at the forefront of our minds when planning this have been;

- Easing children into a return helping them feel welcome and enthused to return to school
- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, lunch arrangements, pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping children and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Protecting clinically vulnerable staff and children as required

Governors agree with my recommendations, adding their support and ideas and we have set out a return timetable on the next page.

As you will see, each year group has one day of the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June, in which they return as the only full year group. This will allow them to explore the area they will be working in and learn the new routes and rules without being worried about bumping in to other children and people. This will give us the opportunity to work with them, to really focus on making them reflect on the happy time at home and the 'new' school.

	AM	PM	Pupil Attendance
Monday 8th June	<b>Staff ONLY</b> EYFS F1	<b>Staff ONLY</b> EYFS F1	Key Worker Children
Tuesday 9th June	<b>Staff ONLY</b> EYFS F2	<b>Staff ONLY</b> Y1	Key Worker Children
Wednesday 10th June	All F1 AM Children	All F1 PM Children	Key Worker Children
Thursday 11th June	All F2 Children	All F2 Children	Key Worker Children
Friday 12th June	ALL Y1 Children	ALL Y1 Children	Key Worker Children

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, all of F1, F2 and Y1 children will be in school, as well as key worker children.

For children not in these year groups, who are at home learning, we will continue to formulate work packs and we have allocated staff to be in charge of the dojo across two year groups, so that the children can still have access to a teacher (as most will be in school and not directly available). There will be specific year group parent letters which will give you more information.

I understand that you will all have your own feelings about this and of course you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. We'll provide you with more details in the next week as each year group has differing arrangements in regard to arrival and pick up and then you as a parent can make an informed decision.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we are told it's safe to do so, we are unable to provide places for other children.

I realise that not all parents may agree with the decisions that the Governors and I have made. However, I would hope that you know through my regular communications, that I have considered deeply what we can and cannot do successfully and I have placed the safety of both children and staff at the heart of these decisions throughout. If you do have any questions then please contact [office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com](mailto:office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com)

Kindest regards,

Jon Crone, Headteacher