



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Tuesday 9th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Wider reopening to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

As explained in Friday's letter, we are currently planning to reopen more widely beyond Key Worker provision as outlined in the Government's proposals. You will possibly have seen that there have been some reports in the media that the R rate for the North West has risen which has understandably caused some concern and so we do have to be extremely hesitant in our approach. Things are changing on a daily basis and there are several Local Authorities in the North West that have directed their schools not to reopen to wider year groups. We are continuing to engage with government, union and council guidance and, currently, schools are being urged to proceed with caution.

However, we are still continuing to plan and there is the possibility of bringing back one new year group on either the 15th or 22nd June. This will then hopefully be followed by another year group if space allows. Again, this is only provisional and will need to be risk assessed as we move forward. So as we can make definite plans, we now need parents in the proposed year groups to make a firm decision as to whether they intend for their children to return to school before September if the opportunity arises. We undertook an anonymous survey several weeks ago but we now need parents to complete a second survey which will provide us with your name and final response. This will then directly inform our decision as to which year group, if any, we select as being the first to return. The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SQH5YYB>

It is essential that, if you have not already, you familiarise yourself with the significant measures we have been directed to put in place which were outlined in the newsletter on Thursday 21st May (this can be found in the newsletters section of the school website) as school is operating in a very different way to normal. I have also attached our current home/school agreement which must be followed by all children and parents in order to maintain safety.

It is important to note that children who are currently part of the Key Worker groups are now, as outlined in the government guidance, able to be included in the year group 'bubbles' if parents choose for this to happen. This will mean that siblings may now be split across more than one group and that children who have been at home will now join with children who have accessed the Key Worker provision to create a single year group 'bubble'.

It is with real regret that I have to say it is highly unlikely that we will be able offer provision for our Nursery children before September and so, currently, the survey is only accessible for parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. It may also be unlikely that we will be able to accommodate all three of these remaining year groups as space and staffing will currently not allow for the number of children we would need to provide for. If uptake is higher than capacity, the other strong possibility is that we may have to offer provision that is not full time. Children may be selected to return to school in small groups for a fixed period of time, such as 2 weeks, to allow for all children in the year group to return.

I appreciate that it is a short turnaround but we are asking that all survey responses be completed by 7pm on Wednesday 10th June 2020. Any late responses may not be able to be considered although we will do our best. Similarly, if parents choose to change their decision further down the line, this will only be able to be accommodated should there be space to do so. Please do remember there are no penalties or fines for non-attendance if you feel now is not the right time for your child to return.

Your help with this is much appreciated and please do remember that any plans are provisional and subject to change. As I have said before, we are so keen for the children to return safely but we do know that the limitations to our plans may cause disappointment for some. Key Worker numbers will dictate our overall ability to provide increased capacity and any change in staffing numbers or any increased safety concerns will mean that our plans will be paused. Thank you for your understanding throughout this time and I do send my very best to all of our children and their families.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey