



11th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Possible reopening of school to more pupils in June

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation last night and the further information he has provided in the House of Commons today and during the briefing at 7pm, schools will now be asked by the Government to 're-open in stages', from 1st June (subject to certain conditions).

This approach will begin with Primary school age students in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The Prime Minister further stated that it is the Government's ambition for all Primary age children to return to school before the summer holidays.

The Government went further to state its ambition was to see secondary age students, who would be facing examinations next year, provided with an opportunity to see their teachers for some time before the school holidays.

As you are aware, during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have remained open for children and young people of 'critical workers'. Today we had three pupils attend school. Please be assured that this approach will continue until the end of this term, Friday the 21st May. During this period, we will also continue to support the pupils who have remained at home, providing learning resources, virtual contact and weekly phone calls. Our aim has been to provide you with the support you need for your child.

As a Special School, being expected to prioritise chronological year groups 10 and 12, in line with our mainstream counterparts, may not be the most appropriate provision to support all our pupils.

Pupil's understanding and their ability to comply with social distancing needs to be considered, rather than just a pupil's age-related expectation of that understanding. As yet, we have not yet received any communication from the Government outlining how their plans will be implemented or guidance about how we can ensure the safety of all our students, their families and the staff at school; including their transport to and from school.

Today, I can confirm that we will open our Stansted primary site for our Year 6 pupils on June 1st. At present we may be required to split the Year 6 class and adjust the times of



the school day in order to maintain social distancing. Further details will be shared with you at a later date once we have spoken to all the Year 6 parents. I also understand that the prospect of sending pupils back to school may create high levels of anxiety, please do not worry as we will work you to do what's best for the child and your family.

Wherever possible the decision to '**Stay Home and keep safe**' will be the default approach that we will take. This will continue until a point at which we feel the conditions at school mean we can expand the numbers attending each day.

We will also consider the school staff availability, their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements and their wellbeing needs in relation to their self-isolation and shielding status.

Using this information, we will work with the Local Authority, Social Services and you, our parents, to identify students who we jointly consider are safer attending school and those who we consider would be better supported by remaining at home.

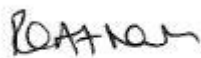
Pupil and staff safety will always be of paramount importance and will guide all our decisions. I am committed to doing my best for our pupils and keep them safe.

Tomorrow you will receive a survey and I would appreciate a prompt response so that we have a greater understanding of your expectations of us in providing education in term 6. If you have any concerns or worries, we are of course here to support and please feel free to contact the school at any time. However, we're also not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

Please be assured that we will continue to follow all Government guidance and put in place the measures that are required to keep people safe. However, there is no doubt that whatever measures are put in place, we cannot eliminate the risk that the virus could spread in a school due to the fact that we work in close proximity to each other. As we increase the numbers of pupils coming into school, the risk of contracting the virus could increase. Therefore, we will only allow more pupils to attend - once we are sure that we are able to do all that we can to protect our school community.

Thank you for your continuous support in helping your child with learning and managing these difficult circumstances. We'll need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please do continue to do what you can and stay in touch with us about how your child is doing.

Stay safe.



Renukah Atwell
Headteacher