



15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the letter I sent out on Tuesday. This letter was sent primarily to gauge your reaction to the proposal made by the Government to open schools for particular year groups, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. It was stressed by the Government that this could not happen if their five key indicators had not been fully met.

The five key tests set out by the government are listed below:

1. Making sure the NHS can cope
2. A sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rate
3. Rate of infection decreasing to manageable levels
4. Ensuring the supply of tests and PPE can meet future demands
5. Being confident that any adjustments would not risk a second peak that would overwhelm the NHS

Across TEAM, we have had many responses to our simple survey. I just wanted to reassure you that your responses are an indicator, and are for planning purposes only. We need to know roughly how many children could potentially attend from June 1<sup>st</sup> so we can make adjustments and provision to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff.

For example, at Pilton Bluecoat, there are 67 children in Year 6. If parental responses had indicated 100% return, we would have to open five classrooms to comply with Government guidelines to allow 15 children per class in order to facilitate social distancing. This of course would have a knock on effect on staffing at all levels including premises staff. Catering is also something we need to carefully consider. It would be virtually impossible to open our doors from June 1<sup>st</sup>, not knowing how many children to expect; there is an incredible amount of planning and preparation involved. Each school setting within TEAM is currently undertaking a thorough risk assessment and will be making necessary adjustments to ensure the safety of all children and staff prior to any proposed return.

Whichever box you ticked on the ParentPay survey, please rest assured that your response is not set in stone. As more government statistics are released and more guidance is given, I expect numbers expressing a likely return to school will change significantly. There are still two weeks to go and I suspect there will be many



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changes in government thinking and policy before then. Indeed, schools may not open at all but I'm sure you appreciate the need for us to get ahead of the game and plan for all scenarios.

As a Senior Leadership Team, we will keep in touch with you and will advise you of the actions taken to reduce any risk to the health and safety of us all. Please note that if you are a keyworker or have vulnerable children, your child/children will continue to be able to attend school.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this this uncertain time.

Please keep safe,

Rhian Nicholas