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| ***Learning to Live, Living to Learn*** | **St John’s Primary School.****Teindland Close,****Newcastle upon Tyne,****NE4 8HE.****Telephone : 0191 – 273 5293**Fax : 0191 – 273 0651**e. mail – tracey.caffrey@stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk****Headteacher : Tracey Caffrey** |

29th May 2020

Dear parents,

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement yesterday, I am in a better position to begin to make plans for bringing more children back to school next month.

When we return on 8th June, school will have strict new measures in place to try to limit contact and it is vital that all staff are fully trained in how to follow the procedures. To do this, we will be open on Mon 8th and Tues 9th June to ONLY the children of key workers and those vulnerable pupils who have been attending throughout the lockdown period.

From Wednesday10th June, we will begin to open more widely to pupils but this will be done in a phased way.

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| Year Group | Return Date |
| Year 6 | Wednesday 10th June |
| Year 1 | Friday 12th June |
| Reception | Monday 15th June |
| Nursery | Wednesday 17th June |
| All other year groups | To be confirmed |

**You might have seen and read some things that scare you about children returning to school. It has really saddened me to see pictures like this. We believe we can implement the changes we need to without school looking cold and clinical. We will NOT be making children stand in hoops, sit on crosses on the floor or be taping off areas of the building. If your child falls over, we will treat them and comfort them, but staff will be wearing appropriate PPE to do it. We will make sure that your child feels as comfortable and happy in school as possible.**

However, school will not be the same as it was before lockdown. The government have set out guidance that children and staff should attempt to stay 2 metres apart. To do this, we have worked out that children will need to be split into groups of between 6 and 9, depending on the size of the room they will be taught in. This means that children might not be working with their own class teacher, in their own classroom or in a group with their close friends. They will stay in these groups all day and will not mix with others at break time or lunch time.

We know from your responses to our survey that around one third of children are likely to return to school. Obviously, you are entitled to change your mind and opt to send them to school at a later date, perhaps once you have seen how we have implemented changes. **If you said NO on the survey but change your mind, we need you to contact school to make arrangements for their return, so that we can set up a new group for them to come in to. It might take a few days from you letting us know that you want them to return, to them coming back.**

The reason we cannot give a return date for Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 yet, is because we don’t know for certain how many children in the first four classes will return and therefore how many staff will be needed to teach them, or how many classrooms will be used. We hope to give an update by Friday 19th June.

The government are clear that it is a parent’s choice about whether children return to school in summer term. **Absence will be authorised and there will be no fines if you choose to keep your child at home.**

Home learning will continue for all children who are not in school. We want all children to see 8th June as their ‘back to school’ day, even if they are not coming back into the school building. There will be two Teams video calls each day for every child – one with an English focus and one with a maths focus. We will try to mirror the teaching that is being done for the children in school so that your child is not ‘missing’ key learning if they do not attend. If you have not yet downloaded the Microsoft Teams app, please do so before 8th June. Your child’s teacher will be in touch next week with a timetable for calls. We expect that children will engage with these calls and the work set daily and will be following up with families to see what support we can offer to get the children back into a learning routine. If you need support with technology – either to loan a device or with downloading the app – please get in touch. Miss Bartley is working in school all next week so will be available to answer questions.

I will continue to provide updates about start times, arrangements for drop off and collection etc when these are confirmed, so do please check the website regularly. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at the address above.

Take care



Mrs T Caffrey