



Alfred Street Junior School

Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9YS
Web site: www.alfredstreetjunior.org
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Telephone: 01933 353762
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Headteacher: Mrs K O'Connor
School Business Manager: Mrs Debbie Heffernan

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you to everyone who sent a response to the phased return survey, we got a 67% response (82 replies). Below are some of the results:

12% said I have to send my child to school due to work commitment but am confident risk is minimal

9% said I will return my child to school as soon as I can because I believe the risk is minimal

78% said I will not return my child during this current time

These responses were helpful in providing an insight into parent view. We appreciate that your views may change as the information changes. Thank you also for the additional comments some of you made, we are using some of these comments to inform future planning.

I am conscious that we are all currently working with the unknown. I understand the Government's rationale for asking schools to begin the process of the phased return, and also understand the concerns you as parents have raised, and those of staff looking to implement procedures surrounding this process. To that end, I thought it would be helpful to give you an insight into what is currently happening.

We are currently drafting a risk assessment which includes consideration of multiple factors including social distancing, cleaning, safeguarding, logistics, quality of education, staffing numbers, health and safety. In addition, we are rearranging classrooms to see how many children we could accommodate according to our control measures. The maximum 'bubble' size permitted by the Government is 15, but due to the size of our rooms, we can only accommodate 6 pupils to a room, if we are to encourage social distancing, which is part of our risk assessment. I am also giving consideration to how best to implement safe drop off and collection. The Government is not issuing teachers with PPE, we are currently trying to source some equipment for first aid, emergency situations and cleaning. We also need to give consideration to the cleaning which will be required within school and what equipment may/may not be used.

On Thursday 28th May, the Government will decide if they believe the 5 conditions for the reopening of schools can be met. If they are met, the earliest date for extending provision is 1st June. After the announcement on the 28th May, I will submit my risk assessment to the Local Authority for their quality assurance, following which it will be presented as a consultative document to the Governing Body and staff. Then, if approved and a decision is made to open the school to Year 6 pupils, I will share with parents what arrangements and measures will be put in place. We will then ask these to be shared with the children, in order to prepare them for the experience and change in the classroom set up they will encounter upon their return, this will include photographs of classroom layouts. A Home School Agreement will also be put into place.

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In order to implement the necessary procedures and to communicate all important information, **any possible return of Year 6 pupils will not be until the 8th June.**

From the 1st June, we will continue to provide provision for our Critical Workers and Vulnerable children who have an EHCP or a Social Worker. If you think you are entitled to this provision and may require it from the 1st June, **you must reserve a place via Parents App.** As we have to abide by strict guidelines, it is essential that we know how many children we need to cater for so that we can prepare them a work space and ensure that we have adequate staffing to supervise them in small groups. If you haven't already provided the school with evidence of your role, you must do this before your child can attend. We will then need critical workers to inform the office on a weekly basis of the days you require, dependent upon your shifts. If you do not reserve a place, we may not be able to accommodate your child, as we have limited space due to the social distancing requirements and are currently operating 6 to a room. **Please reserve your place for any future provision by Wednesday 28th May 9.00am.** If you are unsure whether you will need the provision, please reserve a place in case so that we have an idea of the maximum numbers we are catering for.

At this point in time, we do not anticipate that we will be able to welcome any further year groups back, until the regulations on social distancing are relaxed. Our current risk assessment means that we only have capacity to accommodate Year 6, Critical Workers and Vulnerable children. If the Government guidance changes, we will review our positions. When we return from the half term break on 1st June, we will endeavour to send out further learning packs and sign post you to online learning for those who wish to access it.

We very much want to welcome our pupils back to school to a happy and productive, learning environment in school and because of this we will only admit children if we believe we can do so safely. Please rest assured that we will do everything possible to support your child's wellbeing upon return and will do everything possible to get your child to where they need to be in their learning.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term and will provide you with an update on the week commencing 1st June. If you need any support in the meantime, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please keep yourselves safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K O'Connor

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