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Learning and Growing Together

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to provide you with a further update on our plans for the continual wider re-opening of our school.

As a school, we continue to have discussions with the Local Authority and seek guidance from the Government and Department for Education regarding our plans to reopen to more year groups across school. It has been necessary for us to demonstrate a high level of agility during the last few weeks in order to be responsive to what has appeared to be an ever-evolving landscape.

The government advice was to start the return to school from June 1st for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. It was acknowledged there has to be flexibility with, this given how individual schools may be able to respond in consideration of their unique circumstances. Having already opened school again successfully to Year 6 and Year 1 children, we are now offering to invite children from **Reception** for two days a week. This would either be a Monday and Tuesday or a Thursday and Friday depending on the group your child is allocated. **This will commence on Monday 29th June.** Children will be taught in groups of up to ten with one teacher and teaching assistant across several rooms. This would also mean we can seat children with an appropriate distance between each other for the majority of their learning. Children not in school will continue to be provided with home learning.

It is clear that the school day is going to look very different in the first instance. It is important that we all are clear about this as for some children this will be disappointing as they will be hoping to return to school as they knew it. Unfortunately, it will not look or feel the same. We will however, endeavour to make the day pleasant, to continue to inject our Park View ethos and values into the day and provide enjoyable learning activities.

Children in school will remain in an assigned group with assigned members of staff throughout the day. They will have staggered access to outdoor space. We will ensure there is supervised, regular hand washing and hand sanitisation. Furniture will be cleaned at mid-day, at the end of the day and a deeper clean will be implemented on Wednesday as the second group of children prepare to attend. We will provide all children with individual work packs so they are not sharing stationery. There will be a one-way system in school and children will only have breaks with children in their assigned groups.

There will be a slight staggering of start and finish times and we will use more entry and exit points. We will be asking parents not to enter the school building but to telephone or email any school messages and to ensure distancing from other families when dropping off and picking up children. We will be asking children to return in their school uniform and kindly request that parents wash uniforms at the end of the day before returning the next day. Children will also eat their lunch in their assigned rooms.

These measures have been carefully considered, however I am sure you can appreciate that they are not infallible. People find social distancing very challenging and this is even more so for our younger children. It would not be realistic to say that children will not come into contact with other children however, they will stay within their assigned small groups with assigned adults. We do ask that school families adhere to the Government guidance outside of the school day so that we can be assured that we are all doing all we can to implement the measures outlined for our safety and to protect the children and staff as they come to school.

During the partial closure, we have been able to provide wrap around care for children whose parents are key workers. We are able to continue this provision. Unfortunately, at this current time we will not be able to reinstate our Out of School Club. We will advise you when we are able to do so. Just to clarify, if you choose to send your child to school as part of a class bubble they can no longer be part of the Key Worker provision. This is to avoid the cross-contamination of bubbles across the different areas of school.

This is an incredibly difficult situation and we appreciate there is much to consider. We also appreciate that this initial part-time attendance is not ideal, however it is felt that it would be wise to manage this one step at a time and to continually review our situation and respond to national advice as it happens. Children may find this new way of learning very challenging so a phased, graduated response will support children emotionally with this transition. The government guidance is that siblings outside of the specified year groups cannot attend at this time which we also appreciate presents difficulties.

At this time, could we please ask all parents in **Reception** to email school and indicate if they require a place week commencing **Monday 29th June** for their child in order to effectively assist our planning. Once this information is received we will send further guidance regarding the practicalities of the school day and confirm arrangements. **Please can we ask that you contact school regarding your child's place if required no later than midday on Wednesday 24th June.**

We will continue to provide home learning and support for all our children, for those not able to attend school yet and for the days part-time pupils are not in attendance. This will feel different to previous weeks as we will need teachers to be teaching across the school day in order to facilitate the smaller groups. However, learning will be provided and teachers will check online platforms and emails as frequently as possible. We will be monitoring carefully, listening to advice, reviewing our situation and hopefully building on our initial steps until such time when all our children can return.

We would like nothing more than to welcome all our children back to school and to resume learning and social activity as we know it. We do hope that you are all keeping well and taking good care of yourselves as well as your children. May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience, understanding and continued support at this most challenging of times. You have been and continue to be in all our thoughts. Please do continue to take care and keep safe.

Kind regards,

David Stephens
Executive Headteacher

Emma Udall
Head of School

