



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

## **Possible re-opening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**

As we anticipated last week, the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening means schools are being asked to prepare for a possible staged re-opening from the 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest. Having spoken to the staff who are making phone calls home, we know this has left many of you feeling unsettled about the way forward. In this letter, we want to focus on what we do know at this stage and explain how we will be planning for the next steps.

The guidance for schools was published earlier this week and as we made clear last week our first duty is to plan and consider carefully how we can ensure the health and safety of all the pupils and staff who come in to our school. The school team, senior leaders and governors are all working hard to make sure that we are appropriately prepared and that we have in place the protective measures outlined in the guidance to keep everyone as safe as possible.

It is clear that the provision for children returning to school will be far from a 'normal' school day both in terms of the learning on offer and how the day is organised. For example, following the guidance provided, we are looking at protective measures such as:

- Children across the school being in small clusters (of no more than 15 pupils)
- Keeping each small group cluster isolated from other groups to avoid cross contamination and infection spread
- Different break and lunchtimes for each small group cluster
- Staggered arrival and pick up times
- Increased cleaning regimes
- Groups and children having their own equipment to work with and store in school
- Handwashing and hygiene regimes

Schools have been asked to continue to prioritise provision for key worker children and vulnerable pupils, then children in Reception and Year 1, and then pupils in Year 6. Given the guidance that teaching groups should be split in half with no more than 15 pupils per small group, we already know that we do not have the sufficient space and rooms available for all these groups of children to be in school at the same time. Further guidance was published yesterday evening that has made it clear schools should prioritise provision in the order outlined above.

Alongside the planning for the potential re-opening of schools, we are continuing to provide the home learning for all year groups at this current time. In addition, we are reviewing the provision we will be making for children in year groups not returning to school in the first phases of re-opening.

One of the pieces of information we require at this stage to help with planning is an indication of how many children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 we are likely to have in. To help us collect this information we would ask you to let us know whether or not you intend to send your child back to school when the school re-opens. To help us plan effectively, it would be really appreciated if all parents with children in these year groups can send in a reply by **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** via [Horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

If you are a keyworker, and are not currently using the provision available at school we would also ask that you let us know whether or not your circumstances are likely to change in the near future. If you do require provision going forward, an indication of whether you require the full week or if there are particular days of the week that are needed this would also be helpful. Again, please could we ask for replies by **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** via [Horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

The letter sent out yesterday from Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services, gave links to the guidance documents specifically for schools and parents that are widely available on the internet. The link to the parent document is included again here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

It is clear from this guidance that any family who choose to keep their child at home during the remainder of the summer term will not be penalised for non-attendance. In light of this, we would like to reassure you that the school will not be taking any action regarding attendance if children in these year groups do not return in the summer term due to parental choice.

One of the difficulties that everyone has in these times is to sift through what is important from the numerous sources of information that are out there. We recognise this letter will not have answered every question that you may have, but we hope it has clarified our sense of direction and the principles we are following as we make each set of decisions.

It is clear there is more information that will come out in the coming days and weeks and once we have finalised a plan and confirmed it with the governors, we will write again to explain the practicalities of the new systems and ways of working.

We would like to thank you in anticipation of your response in order to help us plan effectively and safely for our phased return to school. For now, please continue to take care of yourselves, your families and those around you.

Yours faithfully



Julie Williams