



Bewdley Primary School  
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29th May 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you about the re-opening of Bewdley Primary School to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1st June 2020 and the continuation of support for Key Worker and vulnerable children.

I will start by saying that I know many of you will be worried about your children returning to school. I share that worry and I think it is entirely natural given the unprecedented circumstances we are faced with. However, we feel that the school is ready to accommodate these children in an acceptably safe manner. So, we as a governing body have approved this partial reopening.

There is a lot we don't know at the moment. It seems quite clear that children are not as severely affected by the virus when compared to older people. We do not know the longer term impact on children. There is some evidence that children do not spread the virus as much as adults but there is varying information about this. The risk from the novel coronavirus starts from the chance of catching it however, and we do know that there are very few cases in Wyre Forest with only a handful reported daily. There is a chance that a case may be brought into the school but social distancing measures within school are designed to minimise any such case from spreading through the school population.

In June, school will not operate the same way as normal. There will be different entrances for different groups of children and movement around school will be much more restricted. Children will be placed in a "bubble" with up to 15 other children; mostly from their class and friendship groups. Staff members will be assigned to these groups and will work within a minimal number of bubbles to prevent the potential transmission of the virus between bubbles. Tests will be available for anyone who present symptoms and any children or adults who do exhibit symptoms of the virus will be expected to isolate as per government guidelines. If a cluster of cases arises in school or there is a surge in cases locally, we will not hesitate to close the school if we feel that is necessary to protect members of the school community.

It is important to be clear that the decision of whether to send your child or children into school, after what would have been half-term, is entirely yours. I most definitely do not want anyone to feel pressured to do anything they are not comfortable with, either way. I don't think there is a wrong choice here but I recognise that this choice may be different for different families. You should know that staff in school will do their utmost to protect children physically and emotionally. Equally, if you are not ready for your child to return to school yet there will be no consequences or judgements made about this decision.

Head Teacher:  
*Mrs. Jane Woakes*

## *Helping everyone to achieve their best*

I would ask that parents and carers carefully read the school's guidance for a safe return. A lot of thought has been put in to making sure that the measures prioritise the safety of pupils, staff and parents. Please make sure that you play your part in following these rules and routines so that no one's safety is compromised. In particular, although it may be tempting to do so, please avoid chats with other parents or staff that breaches the 2m distancing both inside the school grounds and outside.

I want to finish by thanking the staff at school. Staff have worked tirelessly throughout this period, with a huge number of unknowns. School has remained open for a small number of keyworkers' children during this time including over the Easter break and all children have been provided with home-learning packs as well as other support in many cases. The solidarity and dedication the staff has shown in such difficult times, despite all this and their own worries, should be something of which we as a school community feel extremely proud.

Yours sincerely

Martin Saunders

Chair of Governors