Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for our plans for a phased reopening. We have been taking on board a wide range of advice and preparing a range of operating procedures and risk assessments. Any plans that we make may be subject to change following government guidance or local circumstances. They will also be subject to the availability of staff.

We will be continuing to prioritise the children of key workers and those in vulnerable groups, the planned phases are as follows:

**Monday 1st June** Expansion of key worker and vulnerable provision. 9.00 am – 3.30pm

**Monday 8th June** Return of Y6 pupils 9.15 am – 3.00pm

**Monday 15th June** Return of Y1 pupils9.30am – 3.15pm

Please note the staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion at the gate.

**When will you be admitting nursery and reception?**

We will be assessing the impact of introducing Y6 and Y1 before admitting any further year groups. We will also be carrying out additional early years risk assessments due to the greater care needs and higher level of staffing needed for early years children.

**Does my child have to come to school when their year group returns?**

No, we will respect the decisions that you make and there will be no penalties for non-attendance. **We ask that parents contact us on** **info@tintwistle.derbyshire.sch.uk** **the week before the year group is due to be admitted and let us know their plans**. We also need parents to commit to sending their children to school consistently, picking and choosing on different days is not an option. We will be arranging the children into ‘bubbles’ and can only do this if attendance is planned and consistent.

**What about online learning?**

Online learning will continue to be available for all children, including those in groups that have returned to school.

**Can you guarantee that there will be no cases of Covid 19 in school?**

The simple answer is no, there can be no guarantees that we won’t have cases in school. I can however assure you that we will be following the government guidelines and will be putting additional site specific measures in place.

**Are the social distancing measures just about keeping staff safe?**

No. Our school is part of a wider communityand there are many social connections from our school to those who are vulnerable. We are absolutely dedicated to minimising the risks of the spread of infection, we want to keep your families and the wider community safe. We expect parents to play their part in this by maintaining social distancing and keeping their child at home if they are unwell.

**When will children from other age groups be able to attend?**

Only once the government has made that decision, we will find out through the same news bulletins that you do. At the moment we have clear instructions not to take children outside the specified year groups. The government had ruled out week in/ week out attendance with year groups swapping over, but this may change. We will not be able to accommodate all the children in school at the same time following the current guidelines.

**What do I need to do?**

**Y6 parents please contact us during the week beginning 1st June to confirm if your child will be attending.**

**Y1 parents please contact us during the week beginning 8th June to confirm if your child will be attending.**

Please have a conversation with your child about how school will look and feel different (see below). It would be very helpful if you could remind them that ‘hugs are for home’ and that they will be asked not to touch each other.

Please use info@tintwistle.derbyshire.sch.uk for any correspondence.

**What will school look like?**

**Following DfE guidelines we have made a number of changes.**

* Children will be met at the gate at their allocated start times. Parents will not be able to enter the school site without an appointment.
* Children will be wearing school uniform but will be spending a lot of time outdoors – please apply sun cream at home and make sure your child has a coat and outdoor shoes. If your child has outgrown their uniform please ensure that they wear something as similar to uniform as possible.
* All internal and external doors and windows will be open to minimise touched surfaces and maximise ventilation – children will need their jumpers!
* The kitchen will remain closed for now and all children will need to bring a packed lunch, drink and a snack of fruit if they would like one.
* Nothing else will be transferred between school and home (no toys, book bags etc.)
* Children will be entering and exiting their classrooms via the external doors. The groups will have designated sinks and toilets.
* The playground and garden areas will be zoned to keep the groups separate.
* Soft toys and furnishings have been removed.
* Desks are in rows and children have individual pots of equipment. They will be able to use designated IT equipment.
* Children will be able to use toys but not share them, as they have to be washed between children.

We are all looking forward to returning to normal as soon as possible. For now we are taking our first tentative steps and we thank you all for your support. Tintwistle has amazing staff, pupils, parents and governors and I am sure that between us we will get there.

 Jo Griffin 27.5.20