



Wath Victoria Primary School
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ROTHERHAM
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Headteacher:
Mrs C Miller



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14th May 2020

Re: Potential re-opening of school

Dear parents and carers,

On Sunday, schools were told that the government plans to ease lockdown, whereby F1, F2, Y1 and Y6 children could return to school after half term.

Re-opening of school for these year groups is conditional on a continued decline in deaths and infections and will happen no earlier than 1st June. The safety of our children, staff and the wider community has to be our first consideration in all our decision making. Whenever school returns, it will be a very different environment to the one we are all used to:

- Children of key workers, and vulnerable children who are already attending school, will continue to do so.
- Children in the first set of designated year groups (F1, F2, Y1 and Y6) will not return to full time education; what we can deliver will depend on pupil numbers and staff availability.
- DFE social distancing guidelines advise that classes should be 15 children, or fewer.
- DFE social distancing guidelines advise that children should work, play and eat within this group bubble, and so will not interact with any other children.

There is much to be thought about and planned for as a result.

The first thing is to find out numbers of children who might come to school. If you have a child in F1, F2, Y1 or Y6, you will be contacted this week, and asked about your intention to send your child back to school.

We recognise that there are many factors which will influence your decision; parents/carers will not be penalised for keeping their child at home.

Once we know the numbers of children who might attend and the availability of staff, we will be able to decide how classes will be organised.

Issues we will have to consider are:

- How to keep children and staff safe
- How to ensure social distancing, and keep numbers of children to no more than 15 in a class
- How to organise breaks and dinner times
- How to organise drop off and collection of children
- How to organise movement around school
- What further cleaning we will require and the implications for the equipment that children use e.g. bricks, paintbrushes in Foundation Stage and the sharing of resources more widely.

Please can I ask parents/carers not to promise children that they are going back to school after half term as they will be very disappointed if the government decides that it is unsafe for schools to open, or as a school we cannot open for their year group.

All our plans will have to be approved by governors before implementation; in all our decision making, we will put the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff first and foremost. We will take a gradual approach to re-opening and the details of the plan will be shared with you towards the end of next week. We will approach this thoughtfully, learning from the best practice elsewhere. By working together, we will find the best solution for our school community.

I thank you once again for your ongoing support, and trust that you are keeping yourselves safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Miller
Headteacher