

Wreningham V.C. Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr R Jones M.A.

Friday 15-5-20

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well, are staying safe and making the best of the current situation.

THANK YOU TO MY STAFF

Last week was a very busy week in school and on Friday we started to make the first steps in the long process of re-opening the school, moving furniture back into classrooms etc. We continue to have the children of key workers in each day and I want to thank my staff who are all on a rota to be in school caring for these children. The staff are also at home working hard to provide the children with learning online and like everyone, grappling with the lockdown and the implications of that on their own families, relatives, and even the more routine activities such as shopping that is no longer straight forward!

IMPLEMENTING PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Thank you to the many parents who completed the online survey (closing date Tuesday 19th May, 12PM). This was for the parents of children in Years R, Year 1 and Year 6. I know that parents would have thought deeply about this survey. To date, the number of parents who stated 'Yes' they intend to send their child back is as follows: 4 children in Year R; 11 children in Year 1; And 6 children in Year 6. Some parents stated 'No' to this question and others are waiting for further information.

Before parents make a final decision about whether or not to send their children back to school, we will be giving them a detailed plan of what this will look like. This plan will be agreed by governors and finalised Tuesday 19th May and I hope to be sending this to parents on Wednesday 20 May. Considerable planning and changes to the school has needed to take place to meet the Government's guidance and put in place the protective measures to reduce the risk of infection to children, staff and you at home.

I can however, give you some general details about the phased return of this group of children. Please remember that it is YOUR choice and there will be NO penalties for non-attendance.

The Gov.UK guidance includes a list of protective measures which we will try to uphold: ensuring children only mix in a small, consistent group and that group (referred to as a 'bubble') stays away from other children, staff and groups (e.g. each bubble will have the same children and where possible the same adult) - this includes staggered playtimes and lunchtimes (and this includes eating lunch) as a 'bubble'; the classrooms (e.g. class 4 (Y6) / class 2 (Y1) etc.) will be arranged so that

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children sit approximately 2 metres apart (please note that there will be no enforced social distancing of younger children inside or outside the classroom as this will not be possible to achieve); unnecessary items will be removed from the classroom where possible; soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean will be removed; there will be staggered starts to the day and staggered finish times to avoid congestion at the school gates; only one adult dropping off and collecting will be allowed (parents cannot gather at either of the entrance gates); and only parents with a pre-arranged appointment will be allowed to enter the site through the main entrance.

The advice for cleaning and hygiene includes: children frequently washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. As I mentioned previously, to support this the school has significantly increased its handwashing facilities, buying handwashing ‘troughs’ with space for 3 pupils to wash their hands – one handwash trough in each class and one outside. We expect these to be installed before 1 June. Staff will also clean surfaces that children are touching such as desks, chairs, doors, sinks etc as often as they can.

Staff may wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), especially if a child needs intimate care or if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of the coronavirus while in school. We will triage such a situation, isolating the child, until they can return home. If the child tests positive, the rest of their group (or ‘bubble’) should be sent home and advised to self-isolate.

Clearly the children, and staff, will find this all very difficult. The youngest children won’t have access to all the practical resources they would normally have because they all have to be kept clean to avoid infection. We will endeavour to make the experience as positive as possible and recognise that children will be anxious – small groups will help with this.

Please note this is subject to change as further advice is received from the Department of Education or if circumstances change in school. The care of key workers’ children and vulnerable children will remain the school’s priority and the school will continue to be open for these children each day of the week as before. Final details will be sent out to parents next week.

FINALLY

I would like to thank all parents for their cooperation and support of the school during this challenging time. The teachers have loved receiving emails of what the children have been up to. We know that home schooling presents challenges and the staff and I are so impressed with how this has been handled by parents. Finally, some of the children in school this week completed a lovely rainbow picture with hand-prints which we thought we would share with you.

Mr Jones



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