

Covid-19 Update No 5: Tuesday 26th May 2020

General update

Latest announcements from the government TODAY

- There have been several documents released that have talked about more pupils returning to school. This includes special schools but the arrangements are different for us so **PLEASE READ THE DETAILS BELOW!**
- Special Schools are **NOT** being asked to bring specific Year groups back into school. We are expected to continue offering school places to pupils from keyworker families and those pupils who are the very most vulnerable, mostly with social care involvement. **WE ARE NOT FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC YEAR GROUPS**
- We have been asked to continue gradually offering more places to pupils where it is safe to do so, which we have been doing since Easter and this will continue. Each school is continuously risk assessing and taking your feedback from the welfare calls into account
- **Because the return is gradual it is unlikely that all pupils will return before the end of term due to the ongoing need for social distancing. This means that some Year 6, Year 11 and Year 14 pupils may not return before they leave their schools to move onto their next school or college. This is a huge disappointment but safety must come first. More details with arrangements for leavers to follow**
- We are not expecting children to return to school if parents and carers feel they are safer at home. There is no pressure to return at the moment. However as we move forward it will be increasingly safe for your child to be in school and I'm sure more of you will consider it
- When pupils come to school we have to make sure we have enough staff with the appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of our pupils. This is VERY important for both pupil wellbeing and safety
- We have to try to maintain social distancing as best as we can and cannot have too many children and adults in school at any one time. We cannot have more than 3-4 pupils in any one classroom depending on size of rooms, age of pupils and need
- We will be in regular contact with you, ask you for your views. We will continue to provide high quality home learning and class teachers will contact you weekly
- As our numbers increase we will be operating in very small mini groups within each school – we're calling them PODS. Details of what this will look like will be sent to you after half term.

Communication – see latest link to guidance below

- We continue to phone families at least weekly
- We post information on our websites weekly
- We continue to use our text service regularly
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance>

Home Learning

- Photographs of home learning are being posted weekly on the websites – they're fab and provide you with lots of extra ideas
- Home learning is available for every child in every class and can be downloaded from our websites or posted to you if you do not have access to the internet

Thank you all for your support and the positive feedback we have been receiving about our staff team and the efforts they are going to, to keep in touch and provide creative activities for you to engage in with your child. Also thank you to staff in school for putting themselves "on the line" every week, making sure children are happy and engaged and well cared for.

Best wishes to you all. Stay safe.

Alison