

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Please note: this information is subject to change, depending on Government updates.**

As you are aware, Reception has been named as one of the priority year groups to return to Moorside, if the Government makes the decision that schools should re-open from 1st June.

In my last letter, I shared the actions that we would be taking as a school to try and reduce the risks that scientific research suggests are associated with the spread of Covid-19. I believe that our Country is currently at 4 moving towards level 3.

Alongside my dedicated staff team, I have been working to make huge adjustments to the way that we can run our school, to enforce the actions and strict measures that we need to put in place, which were detailed in the Risk Assessment information shared with you last week.

COVID Alert Levels		
Level	Description	Action
5	As level 4 and there is a material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed	Social distancing measures increase from today's level
4	A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially	Current social distancing measures and restrictions
3	A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation	Gradual relaxing of restrictions and social distancing measures
2	COVID-19 is present in the UK, but the number of cases and transmission is low	No or minimal social distancing measures; enhanced testing, tracing, monitoring and screening
1	COVID-19 is not known to be present in the UK	Routine international monitoring

HM Government

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Every school has different factors to consider, when deciding how to safely teach children in the current climate; the space in our classrooms, the number of key worker and vulnerable children already in school in each year group, organisation of resources and the structure of our day, available staffing to ensure that we have the necessary ratios to keep children safe, logistics around additional and more frequent cleaning during the day and timetabling use of available spaces both inside and outside the building (whilst keeping the children in 'bubble groups') to facilitate learning and play.

We will need to manage the process of opening school and growing numbers carefully, with a very gradual phased-return for our youngest pupils, in the hope that the R-rate will continue to decrease over the time taken to transition them back into school, if and when it is safe for them and our staff. When the date for schools to be reopened is confirmed, we will initially organise our key worker and vulnerable children (some of whom have been in school over the past 8 weeks) into Nursery, Reception and Y1 teaching groups called 'pods'. We will monitor our procedures to reduce the risks as much as possible. We will then review and reflect on our effectiveness and efficiency, before considering the next groups of children who could attend school. We will continually monitor the R-rate and Covid-19 levels to support us in our decision-making.

In the meantime, so that your views can be taken into consideration, I would appreciate it if you could complete our survey via Survey Monkey. This will be e-mailed to you separately and there will be a link via our website under 'Parental Surveys'. Please complete this survey by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00pm to help us with planning for next half term. Any questions will be answered either personally or through FAQ feedback.



*Nurturing Children to Succeed and Achieve*

When completing the survey, you will need to consider:

- When our children return to school, they will initially be in much smaller teaching groups (roughly 7-8 pupils). We will match them up with as many of their friends as possible, based on those who also attend school.
- Children may not be taught by their usual teacher, however, they will have some contact with them through activities that we will arrange for them to do in the outdoors. They will be with a member of staff who is familiar with them.
- If they are in school, your child will be doing the same work in the learning packs as those at home, set by their teacher. Phone calls to those learning at home and Marvellous Me's will also continue. The reason for this is because we do not want you to feel that you HAVE to send your child back to school initially, and that they might be disadvantaged if you don't. You must make a decision based on what you feel is best for your child and your family at this time.
- We will need to stagger the start and end of the school day to enforce social distancing amongst our families, until the Covid-19 alert level reduces.

It is so important to work in partnership with you, to support each of our children as individuals. I can't tell you how much we miss having all our children at Moorside, but our priority is to do our utmost to help them to feel safe and happy, whether they are in school or learning at home, which is why this process is so necessary.

Thank you so much for your support and feedback. It really is appreciated at this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Mrs Price, Mrs Jackson or Mrs Hunton at school, if we can help or support you in any way.

Best wishes,  
**Mrs Rowett**