



Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents,

After the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday night, we have spent the last couple of days waiting for more detailed guidance to be shared with educational settings, so that we can try to put plans in place.

Although the 1<sup>st</sup> June has been named, this is conditional and we have no definite dates for returning groups of children to school. When we do have confirmation of a school reopening date, we will aim to gradually increase the number of pupils attending over a phased period of time. First and foremost, in the wider opening of school, safety is my primary concern. On receiving the government guidance, we have considered how we can best put this into practice at Moorside, by considering and reviewing the practicalities of:

- Social distancing measures.**
- Class sizes and areas allocated to groups of children and adults.**
- A one-way system around the school.**
- Handwashing, cleaning and sanitising frequently.**
- Anxiety in pupils, parents and staff.**

I have put together a risk assessment overview (attached), to help us to consider how, and which groups of pupils we can accommodate and transition first, whilst reducing the risks associated with Covid-19.

From the date of return, which is to be confirmed, we will aim to invite:

- Our Year 6 children.**
- Key worker children and vulnerable children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1.**
- Key worker children (as a childcare provision, as per current guidance and practice) for Years 2,3,4 and 5 (who will be taught in a separate area to the other year groups).**
- Vulnerable children, who are individually assessed, where we consider that their needs would be met more safely at school than at home.**

We really do want our children to be in school, but it is most important that it is safe for them and for our staff. In the meantime, we will continue to do our very best to provide learning at home as well as support with well-being for our children and their families. We will continue to be in contact as much as possible through our weekly phone calls, weekly 'keeping in touch letters', bedtime stories, emails, Marvellous Me's and Facebook posts.

If your child is in one of the initial groups attending school, as outlined by the government, we will be in touch with you to gather your views and intentions for your child's return. This information will be used to further inform staffing ratios and risk assessments for all groups of children. However, at present, the key message is that schools will only reopen if the 'five tests' have all been met. We await further guidance from the government on this. For now, please stay safe and keep up the brilliant work that you are doing at home.

Thank you so much for your positive and supportive messages and gestures of kindness. I cannot tell you how much our staff team appreciate it.

Best wishes,

**Mrs Rowett**