

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. As you are all aware, education and childcare settings are already open to priority groups and the government want to encourage all eligible children to attend. Within their exit strategy they have stated that we may be able to welcome our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children back to school on Monday 1st June.

As I am sure you will appreciate, this has sparked much discussion and school leaders are now using the advice and guidelines to plan a strategy to make sure that the return to school for these children and staff is as safe as it possibly can be.

Within the guidelines, there are protective measures which we will need to put in place which will change how the school operates:

- It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.
- It is unlikely that the children will return to their class teacher.
- Classrooms will need to be reorganised to ensure social distancing where possible; remove unnecessary items from classrooms including soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts).
- Drop-offs, pick-ups, break times and lunch times will need to be staggered. The advice is that only one parent should accompany their child to school and parents cannot gather in the playground, at entrance gates or doors.
- Where possible the children will be given their own resources to avoid sharing equipment.
- Staff may have to wear PPE.

The DfE and Unions will continue to communicate guidance and advice as we move closer to this deadline as there are still some unanswered questions. The guidance currently says that it will not be compulsory for you to send your children to school so you will not be fined if you choose not to send them.

Each school will need to risk assess their provision to ensure that they can follow the guidelines set out by the Government. I have a number of staff who fall into the shielding category which is why I will not be able to ensure that your child returns to their class teacher or even a teacher from their school. It would be extremely helpful to me during this planning stage, if you are a **parent who is a key worker or a parent of a Reception, Y1 or Y6 child**, if you could let me know what your thoughts are regarding these changes:

1. I/We will send my child/children back to school when it reopens.
2. I/We will not send my child/children to school when it reopens.
3. I/We are undecided about sending my child/children to school when it reopens.

We understand that this is an anxious time for you all. On behalf of everyone at Grewelthorpe and Fountains, we thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Pam Acheson