

The Coppice Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers of children in Y2, 3, 4 and 5,

It is good to get in touch with you all. I do hope you are all well and that coronavirus has not impacted too negatively on your circumstance. The school seems incomplete without the children; hardly a day goes by where we do not miss greatly our children and families, and all of us hope for a return to the 'old normal' as much as is possible, as soon as possible.

I am sure that you are now well aware that government has asked schools to plan to open, where possible, for just children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**, for now, from June 1st. All being well, other year groups should follow before we break up for the summer. This is, however, still dependent on sufficient progress being made on a national level to contain the virus.

I think it is important to be open and honest about the situation, ensuring that you are all as well informed as you can be to help with your decision making once the offer of a return to school for your child has been made.

We have put together a plan for a phased return of our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to school. However, this is not without its drawbacks. Most importantly, we need to make the right decisions to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents. It goes without saying, as a school with a good track record of 'staying open', we do want the children back, but this cannot be at 'any cost'; we do not want it on our conscience that we have made a decision that has led to a tragic circumstance, so it is all about minimising risk.

As further guidance emerges from the government over the coming days and weeks we will be in touch again regarding how an expansion to cover all years would be managed.

Obviously, for our key worker parents (who are on our list) we will still be supporting by making places available for their children.

I hope that you all appreciate the difficulty we are in with all of this, and that much of the above has been stipulated by the government. I thank you in anticipation of your understanding, accordingly. We will be in touch when we know more and are in a position to offer your child/ren a return place.

Stay safe everybody.

Yours sincerely

Bill Heptinstall