

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday we sent out our proposed plans for opening our school to a wider range of pupils in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception from the week commencing 1st June. If you have not had a chance to view this information, the document can be found here: <http://www.thurton.norfolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Letter-to-parents-19-MAY-re-opening.pdf>

We also sent out a short survey via ParentMail to the parents of children in the eligible year groups to indicate how they felt about sending their child/ren back to school; and an email to Key worker parents to ask if they required any provision during the second half of the summer term.

Thank you to those of you who have completed the survey or have contacted the office to request provision.

Parents of Year 6, Year 1 and Reception who have replied 'unsure' or 'no':

We know and understand that the decision to return your child to school may not be an easy one – what feels the right thing for one family may differ to the views of another. Please be reassured that we are only seeking an indication of parents' views at this point in time to support our planning. All of our planning has been made with the belief that all 15 pupils will return in each eligible year group so if your decision is 'unsure' or 'no' at this point in time because you feel it is too soon, this **does not** mean that your child can not return at a later date if you would wish them to.

Obviously, if there is an underlying medical reason within your household which prevents your child from returning, then your priority is to keep yourselves safe at this time.

If you have not yet returned the survey, due to the limited time constraints that the Government has placed on schools to organise and prepare for the return of more pupils, it would be extremely helpful if you could do so as soon as possible.

If you cannot access the survey, please email the office instead:

Please could you confirm if you will be sending your child to school: 'Yes', 'Unsure' or 'No'.

Critical worker parents:

If you believe your circumstances may change over the coming half term and that you think you may need to request provision at some point, please **let us know now**. An example of this would be if you work in an education setting where you, like us, are waiting for the Government to make a final decision or you are an NHS worker and you think that your current shift patterns may change. The reason for our request is that a number of schools have seen a sharp rise in the need to provide provision for children of critical workers which has impacted on their planning for the return of the other eligible year groups.

Please email the office using the wording:

I may require provision for _____ in Year _____ during the second half of the summer term.

I do not know which days yet.

or

I know it will be on these days: _____.

This has yet to be confirmed.

Kind regards

It is really important that we know or have an idea of pupil numbers in the Green room (Critical worker children class) so we can implement the safety guidance outlined by the DfE.

Possible dates for the return of children in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception

I am sure you appreciate the challenges of planning for reopening schools when school leaders, Governors, parents and children have not been given clear confirmation of when or even if this will occur in June. Despite this, we are able to suggest possible starting dates for children should the Government and Local Authority confirm next week that we are able to open from 1st June. Please note, our dates coincide with the return to work date of our catering suppliers who are planning to provide meals from Monday 8th June.

Year 6: From Wednesday 3rd June (Home packed lunch required – no catering available)

Year 1: From Monday 8th June

Reception: From Wednesday 10th June (mornings only for this week)

More detailed information will be produced once we have received confirmation from the Government and the Local Authority. (Please note, these dates are dependent on what the Government advises and they may change).

Parents of children in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5

Currently we have no new information about when children from these year groups will return to school. If you have been following the guidance, most of you would have realised that it will be extremely problematic for schools to open to all year groups whilst keeping the numbers of children in each class to a maximum of 15. Schools would not have enough classrooms or teachers. It is our understanding that there will be further guidance published by the DfE should scientific advice say it is safe to open to all pupils. In the meantime, we will endeavour to continue to provide remote learning to support your children.

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Stay safe

Kind regards

Mr Barber and the School Office