

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you have had a good week and are continuing to heed government advice around social distancing and keeping safe, albeit that the regulations and recommendations have been slightly adjusted.

You will have heard and be eager to know more about the proposed reopening of schools in a phased way from the 1st June 2020.

We are working out the best course of action and planning how to reintroduce children to school, not only so that that they have the opportunity to settle back in to school life, but also so that they, you and all the staff are as safe as possible.

Here are some initial headlines to help you to make sense of the situation.

- The government's aim is for a phased, partial re-opening of schools, starting with Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 in groups no larger than 15 pupils from 1st June. The government have chosen these year groups as a priority.
- Nursery will return on 1st June
Reception will return on 3rd June
Year 1 will return on 8th June
Year 6 will return on 15th June
- The children of key workers and vulnerable children (using the government's definitions) in other year groups can also attend school and will attend the childcare hub. These families already know who they are. These children can attend from 1st June.
- This means that children from each Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 class will be split into groups of 15. The groups will be split as equitably as possible taking in to account the needs of the class.
- Each group will have its own classroom and will usually be taught by a teacher and a TA every day (the same adults where possible).
- The government have acknowledged that it is impossible to follow the two-metre social distancing rule in schools.
- The government has said that staff and children should not wear masks or other PPE in school except in exceptional circumstances.
- All of the classrooms in the school and many other rooms will be in use in order for this to work for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. It therefore seems unlikely that other year groups will be able to come back to school before the summer holidays as there will be no room for them unless the government changes its current guidance.
- We will continue with learning from home for pupils who are not in school as best we can considering that all teachers will be teaching small groups of pupils in school every day.
- School will end at 12.00 midday on Wednesdays in order to give teachers their statutory planning time.
- We will stagger start and end times of the day for each year group in order to make social distancing a little easier for parents at drop off and pick up times.
Where parents have more than one child attending they can use the earlier arrival time and leaving time for all their children.
- There will be no breakfast club or after school clubs as stated in the government guidance, in order to prevent different groups of pupils from mixing.
- All children in school will have a packed lunch every day. They will eat this in their classroom.
- As the government have stated in their guidance, parents will not be allowed to enter school buildings except in exceptional circumstances so our communication with you will be by text and telephone.
- We have deep cleaning and other hygiene protocols already in place ready to reopen.
- The government has said it encourages parents to send their children back to school.

- No parents will be fined at this time for choosing not to send their children back to school.

The final decision about this will be reliant on scientific tests set out by the government and which will be reviewed on 28th May. The government's roadmap says: "It is possible that the dates ... will be delayed if these conditions are not met. Changes will be announced at least 48 hours before coming into effect."

There is, of course, a great deal more to say about all of this.

These plans are subject to advice and direction from the government, Department for Education, Public Health, the Local Authority and the Teaching Unions.

Some teaching unions have advised their members to refuse to attend school at the moment as they do not agree with the government rationale for returning to school at this time.

Some schools are choosing to ignore government advice about which year groups should return to school and are making their own plans.

We have chosen to follow government advice and as a result we have a clear plan of action based on current guidance.

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 please will you telephone the school office and leave a message or e mail the school office on admin@kingsgate-pri.camden.sch.uk by Wednesday 20th May to let us know:

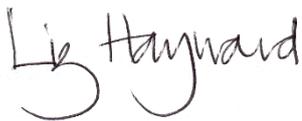
if you do wish your child to return to school (1st June Nursery, 3rd June Reception, 8th June Year 1, 15th June Year 6)
or

if you do not wish your child to return to school (1st June Nursery, 3rd June Reception, 8th June Year 1, 15th June Year 6)

We thank you all, as always, for your continued support and perseverance during these unprecedented times. We look forward to reuniting teaching staff, children and parents when the time is right.

I will be updating you with any information or changes. We will ensure that we keep the safety of our school community at the heart of how we move forward.

Best wishes,



Liz Hayward
Headteacher