

13th May 2020

Re: Possible School Return, 1st June, YR & Y1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you, the children and your extended families are keeping well and staying safe.

I am writing to ask you for some information regarding the potential school return on 1st June for some children, following the Government's announcement at the weekend.

We have begun planning how this could be organised in school in accordance with the guidelines and are receiving updated advice from the DfE, Local Authority and teaching unions daily, which we expect to continue into next week. Hence, we also currently have many unanswered questions and concerns at this point. We are carefully planning for a range of options and undertaking risk assessments as part of this process and now very much **need an indication from you of the numbers of children who may be in school, to help us move our planning forward**. At this point, we only require an indication that you are considering taking up a place for your child rather than a definite decision as we realise you may need further detail from us to inform your decision.

Currently the Government guidelines are that the following children may return to school:

- Reception children (Classes 1 and 2)
- Year 1 children (Classes 3 and 4)
- Children of key workers
- Children with Education Health Care Plans
- Vulnerable children

It is not compulsory for your child to attend school if they fall into one of these groups, this is down to parental choice; parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Those with underlying health conditions as classified in the 'clinically vulnerable' or 'clinically extremely vulnerable' (shielded) groups are advised to remain at home due to the difficulty in ensuring that stringent social distancing measures can be met within a school environment. It is also advised that children and adults should remain at home if they live in a household with someone classified in the shielded group. It is absolutely essential that these higher risk people are protected by remaining at home. Naturally, the guidance also applies to our staff and means that we will continue to be without four Class Teachers after 1st June, including both Reception Class Teachers, as well as several support staff and Teaching Assistants.

As I am sure that you will appreciate, implementing social distancing measures is proving to be extremely difficult with our young age group of children and indeed, this is recognised within the Government guidelines. However, we feel that this is a vital requirement in our current provision, to

protect our children, staff and families. Hence, establishing how many children may take up their offer of a place at school is essential in helping us to plan for adequate social distancing and safety.

The full government guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please could you contact us by Friday 15th May at admin@coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk or 01594 833457 with an indication of whether you would like a place for your child from 1st June or not?

We would also appreciate it if parents could let us know if anyone in your household falls within a vulnerable group (we require no private details; this would purely help us to ensure that all family members are protected within our plans).

I would very much welcome your concerns and thoughts. As a staff we also have a number of concerns, many echoed by the teaching profession and unions. The Government may well issue more information and the situation may change, but it would help us to know how you feel about this return so that we can plan with your thoughts in mind. It is of the utmost importance that we ensure any possible return to school is safe, carefully considered and right for our children, parents, staff and community.

After we gauge possible numbers of pupils likely to return in June, and as Government advice is clarified, the staff, Governors and I will finalise plans and I shall be in touch again with full details of our arrangements.

We appreciate that Year 2 parents will also be keen to know about their children's possible return to school, which I assure you we are bearing in mind as we plan for each phase of wider opening.

Thank you for your anticipated response. Your support is as ever greatly appreciated.

Take care and kind regards,

F. Hamilton

Headteacher