



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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13th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

The Government yesterday announced a provisional plan for schools to reopen for some groups of children as early as Monday 1st June. As a result, with effect from this date and providing that national guidance does not change, we are anticipating being in a position to welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside the priority groups who have been attending school throughout the lockdown.

We understand that in developing its plan, the Government has assessed that there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract COVID-19 and there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with COVID-19. The Government's proposals for week commencing 1 June are also contingent on an assessment it will make on 28 May against five key tests it has set. These tests include the need for the rate of infection to be reducing. The Government has also issued guidance for schools which we will follow in order to provide the safest possible environment for all our children and staff on their return to school.

I will write to you next week outlining our specific plans for the reopening of the academy. For now, I can outline that children will be taught in groups of between 8 and 15 and they will only have social contact with this group and one or two staff members during their time in school. Where possible, children will be kept at a safe distance apart, with staggered school start and end times and as little movement as possible taking place around the academy. It should be noted, however, that the government guidance admits that early years and primary pupils sometimes cannot be expected to follow the social distancing rules. The hygiene protocols promoted by the Government will be adopted, including washing hands or using hand sanitizer regularly.

Due to the physical challenges of accommodating large numbers of children safely under present circumstances, it is likely that we will need to make adjustments to the length of the school day. Again, I will include details of the start and end times of the school day when I write to you next week.

The Government has the ambition to bring all primary year groups back to school at some time before the summer holidays, and we will keep you informed on these details as they emerge.

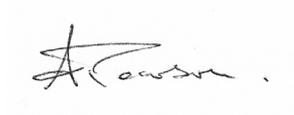
The Government advice states that schools and other education or childcare settings should not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are considered to be effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

Fuller guidance that the Government has prepared for parents/carers can be found here:

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

In my letter next week, I will explain further about which children will return to school and when, including the timings of the day, our expectations of children and parents/carers and our health and safety arrangements. Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pearson', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal