



Spring Grove Primary School

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The government announced plans recently to phase the opening of schools to certain year groups from – at the earliest – 1st June. Our priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community: children, staff and families. We do not wish to put the NHS or our community at unnecessary risk and bring children back unless it is safe to do so, nor do we wish to contribute to a second wave of infections and deaths. We are closely following guidance from professional bodies regarding the safety of all members of our community, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

We are currently carrying out a risk assessment in order to reduce the risk slightly but as soon as more children return, unfortunately the risk will be there. There is much to do and many complex challenges to overcome. There are considerations of space, hygiene, distancing, markings, and protective equipment together with the challenge of providing learning at school and at home. What is clear is that social distancing for our very youngest children will be impossible. Our planning will be made on the basis that we cannot accommodate our children safely all at the same time.

Given the level of planning and changes to the school environment that need to be put in place to reduce the risk of infection to staff, children and families, I would like to inform parents of children in Reception, year 1 and year 6 that we will be unable to welcome the classes all back on the same date. I can confirm that **the start date for year 6 children will be Tuesday 2nd June**. I will be in touch with families of children in Reception and Year 1 over the coming weeks with details of their start dates.

Unfortunately, we have taken the decision not to open the school to children in Nursery. Concerns around staffing levels required, the impossibility of being able to apply successful social distancing with very young children and the availability of space have contributed to this decision. We will review this over time and inform Nursery parents if anything changes.

The children of key workers should continue to attend school and the provision for them will carry on as it has been throughout this pandemic – it is emergency childcare and the children work through the home learning set by their teachers. If your circumstances have changed and you believe that you may need to access this provision, please contact school via email/phone and discuss this with us.

We would also like to be very honest with you about what school will be like for your child if you decide to send them back - school will look and feel very different. In order to attempt to adhere to social distancing rules the children will need to be in small 'bubbles' rather than with their whole class. These bubbles will be capped at a maximum of 15 children, and where possible, we will aim to make them smaller. These groups will not be permitted to mix with children or staff in other groups either in class or at break times. Classrooms will be rearranged with tables set at 2m apart for one child to sit at. Children will not be able to share equipment or use shared practical resources. Young children learn by touching, doing, being with others and sharing – all of which will have to be limited

Headteacher: Mrs Sue Colley

Star Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. TW7 4HB Telephone: 020 8560 0965

Email: office@springgrove.hounslow.sch.uk head@springgrove.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.springgroveprimary.london

as far as is possible. It will not be normal. We will, of course, endeavour to make the experience as positive as possible and recognise that children will be anxious; small groups will help with this.

We understand that some children have special needs that require specific interventions but it will be difficult to provide one to one support in the way that we do when we are operating under normal conditions. Our first priority will be to settle children into this new school routine and to ensure the safety of everybody in the school building. We will, of course, do our utmost to support all of the children in the best way that we can and will take into account their specific needs as much as is possible.

There will be some parents who may feel it is not safe for their child to return. The guidance is clear that parents will not be penalised or face any further action if they choose to keep their children off school. I know that some of you have already informed us of your decision to send/ not send your child to school. If your decision has changed either way it would be appreciated if you could contact school and inform us – this will help us arrange staffing requirements.

Whilst we will be putting strict social distancing measures in place, I believe that it is important for me to state that I cannot guarantee that children will always be 2 metres away from each other. I am sure that you will appreciate that for young children this is impossible to promise. What I can assure you of is that we are taking all measures and adaptations necessary to try and ensure that the 2 metre rule can be applied.

Thank you for the time that you have given to reading this and for the support and kindness that you have shown over the past few weeks; I appreciate what a difficult decision you as parents and carers are now facing.

I will write to the parents of year 6 children who are choosing to come into school from 2nd June with further information in due course.

Kind regards,

Susan Colley
Headteacher