



# Trinity C. E. Primary School

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Dear Parents,

## Covid-19 Update – Re-opening

Following this week's Government announcements, I would like to inform you of where we are up to in relation to these.

These announcements were the first official messages that school leaders had received about any plans for a phased return, ideas of dates or year groups. In fact, the DFE messaged Headteachers previously to say that there were no plans to bring any more children back to school. The devolved administrations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have taken a very different approach to England. Guidance for schools in England to re-open has been published this week but there are still many unanswered questions and pitfalls within these suggested plans.

Having considered what has been published thus far from the Department for Education, it is clear that we still require further guidance and clarification before we can even begin firm planning for the return of children. We know from our work over the past few weeks that the children do not distance in any way, particularly the younger ones. If distancing is an essential requirement, then they simply cannot be in school.

We completely fail to understand where the idea of bringing back Reception and Year 1 children at this point has come from. Certainly not from school leaders and it is, in our judgement, irresponsible. We are also concerned that no consideration has been given to the fact that different education authorities have different systems and therefore, it may be appropriate for other approaches to be considered, liaising with our own Local Authority.

At present, the initial guidance suggests a phased return from June 1<sup>st</sup> for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 Pupils as well as children of Key Workers and those children identified as vulnerable. To separate the number of children within these Year groups and Priority groups into smaller teaching groups of no more than 15 pupils creates a dilemma. We also have members of staff shielding or isolating and the number of staff available will influence our decisions.

We would like to stress the importance of keeping our children safe during this time and ensure that we put the necessary measures in place to provide a safe working environment for pupils and our staff when schools re-open. This is not achievable with the suggested guidance provided to us at present and we will not implement any plans which compromise the safety of our families and staff.



When guidance and plans set out by the DfE are feasible for schools to implement, we will create a safe and definitive plan for our school and inform parents as soon as we have done so, hopefully before half-term.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Jack Pittaway & John Rowe  
Co-Headteachers