Monday 11th May

Dear Parent carers,

I hope that you and your families are all well and safe.

You will have heard from the Prime Minister’s briefing last night that there is an indication that the government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1 June, starting with pupils in reception, year one and year six.  This is part of the government’s conditional plan which it says will remain under regular review. As you will be aware from this statement, this is from the angle of a mainstream Primary school, not a special school and not reflective of every school within Worcestershire’s three-tier system. From this alone, there are several questions that need answering before ANY consideration can be given to a plan around phased re-opening and which children this may be targeted at in our respective settings.

I have no further information, guidance or answers at the moment, than what we all heard last night. I have a couple of meetings later today where I hope that some clarity and joint planning ideas can take place, but I wanted to get in contact with you to respond to what was said by the Prime Minister.

As a Headteacher, I obviously want our children back as soon as possible. We recognise that it is not ideal to have children out of school and out of routine. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that at the moment, it is vitally important that children are not in school so that they remain safe and well in their homes and do not risk the spread of, or contraction of this virus. We are still within a ‘lockdown’ situation that prevents us seeing friends and family and therefore bringing small groups of children together, along with the adults to keep them safe, is a huge risk to manage.

My priority has always been, and will always be, that every decision made will have the children and staff at the very heart of it. Ensuring their health and safety at this time is my focus, and I will not put anyone at risk.

Therefore, I join you in waiting for answers. I am waiting on discussions to be had by the government, by the local authority, by Health and by unions, as there are many factors to consider before a plan can be put in place for a phased re-opening. As soon as I hear anything, I will of course share this with yourselves. From the call logs today, I can see that this is causing anxiety and worry for some of you, but as yet, I just want to reassure you that nothing has changed. It still remains the safest option to have your children at home with you, unless you are a critical key worker to the COVID-19 response, and then we are available to support.

Please do not worry. I know the situation remains confusing and unclear, so we will continue to work through this together and support you where needed. You are all doing such a valuable job in guaranteeing your children are safe and well, and that they continue with their learning opportunities; whether this is online, from sheets, practical and life skills, or just from cuddles on the sofa to let them know they are safe.

The time will come for phased re-opening and the time will come for our children to all be together again, but at the moment this is not safe. Until it is safe, we will continue to work as we are, and I will continue to share with you any information I receive.

I hope that you have enjoyed catching up with different staff over the past week. I would like to emphasise that all families are being contacted. If you receive a call, it’s not because we are worried, it’s because we care and we have a duty of care to know that you are all well at this time and that if you need any support, you receive it in a timely manner.

Please continue to follow us on Twitter. Each week we are seeing greater participation in the challenges and the ‘Wednesday wave’, so thank you for joining us with this.

If you need us for anything our numbers are:

Tracey Smith Head teacher 07935223378

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Keep safe, keep well, keep together and keep smiling

Tracey