



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

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Monday 1st June

Dear Families,

We hope that you enjoyed a lovely sunny week together.

As we enter the 9th week of this lockdown period, things are starting to look a little different.

During the past week, school has remained open to children of critical key workers who required care to enable parents to work. We have continued to work hard throughout the week and have completed a 50+ page Risk Assessment from the Local Authority, that all schools have to complete to highlight the measures, protective procedures and practices in place in order to accept additional pupils into our school as we look to reopen in some form in the next few weeks. This then led to an Operations Booklet being written that gives more detail as to what we are doing, what we will do and what we have put in place for wider opening.

I stand by my initial response of not opening just yet and not having the younger children back first. Although I would gladly have them all back as I'm missing every single child, if I cannot ensure their safety around social distancing, touch, intimate care needs etc, then I will not put them or our staff at risk.

Therefore, as a Leadership Team and Governing Body, we have decided that on Monday June 15th, we will start a phased reopening of our school starting with two groups of pupils we feel we can have back as safely as possible. Our Year 10 and Year 11 MLD groups, will be the first groups back, those currently in 4.1 and 4.2. We have chosen these groups as they need the minimum amount of support in terms of not needing 1:1 or 2:1 care, with support they can manage the change to routine in school, they can keep to the social distancing measures we have in place around school and they can continue with accredited courses. Year 11's can transition into the bungalow enabling us to utilise another area that gives more space between the two year groups. The children that we offer these places to, also do not have any underlying medical needs or those that put them in the extremely vulnerable category, they do not live with someone who has underlying medical needs or are over the age of 70, and they do not require an extra level of support for behavioural, medical or care needs.



“Valuing every achievement”



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For the pupils that we are asking back, we will be sending out a separate letter and copy of our Operations booklet, so you can see all measures in place and all questions you have will hopefully be answered in this.

I would like to reiterate that as parent/carers, you are not obliged to take up this place if you still believe your child is safer in their home and you are able to care for them in this situation. Fines are not in place for this period of non-attendance in schools.

Those of you receiving the reopening letter and Operations Booklet will see the great lengths we have gone to in order to make school as safe as possible with all the measures we have in place. Although this has taken a lot of time, consideration and thought, we cannot 100% guarantee safety in school but we can guarantee we have done our very best with no exceptions. We have had key rooms deep cleaned, and these will also be fogged with disinfectant before groups return. The rooms have been marked out, in social distanced areas around tables giving pupils the prompts for their spaces. This is another reason for phasing these two groups back first as they will be able to adhere to these markings independently.

This phased reopening is what we are working towards over the next couple of weeks and we ask those of you who have children in these year groups who qualify, to complete the separate letter coming out to you today and return as soon as possible so we know who we will be expecting back.

Children we have had in school up to this point as children of critical key workers, continue to be able to access this provision, however we will split this group to make it better for work and activities from the 15th too.

I appreciate that some of you may have hoped that your child would return soon and this may not be the case now. All I can say is that this decision has not been easy to make but it has been made after hours of different scenarios and 'what ifs'. To us, as a Leadership Team and Governing Body, it makes more sense to have these pupils back first in terms of logistics around the school to ensure maximum safety possible, and educationally, where these pupils are with their accreditation work and next steps, these became the best choice. The bottom line remains that your child is safer with you in your homes as they are not coming in to contact with the number of adults that our children have to within a day...and this is on



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this minimum safe level of staffing too.

This letter is written in conjunction with our Governing Body and after consulting with our staff too who have all remained very positive and supportive to the measures and thought process that has gone into managing this difficult period of time.

I would also like to thank you all as families for your ongoing support. This has not been an easy time and there has been no clear guidance throughout so we have just engaged common sense, use of the facts we do know and we have gone from that. I hope you know that I will never put your children at risk and as a team, we all feel strongly about this and will always ensure this is the case. Even though you may feel your child may need to be back for routine, there is no 'routine' as they used to know. As I said before, the school building is the same but there will be restrictions to movement around the school, it may not be a class they know, there is tape on the floor in classes, their group team are on a rota so may not have people used to working with them. It won't be as it was for a long while yet, but we will do all we can for those we feel can cope with it at this stage.

We are officially 'back' this week, although we were in last week! Staff will continue with welfare calls this week and we also start our Annual Reviews.

You may have seen on Twitter that we won another £75 today for our participation in sports challenges from the All Active Academy, so thank you to you all for getting involved in this. A letter came out about the Virtual School Games on Friday so please look at how you can get your child involved in this over the next week.

If you need anything at all you have our work mobiles, so please feel free to contact us.

Many thanks

Keep safe, keep well and keep smiling

Tracey
Headteacher

Mr Huw Powell
Chair of Governors



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