

15th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Planned re-opening of schools on June 1st

Further to my letter of the 12th May I am writing to all parents and carers to outline the school's plans for re-opening to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on June 1st.

There has been much reporting in the media about the planned re-opening of schools and you will be aware of the concerns raised by parents, staff, teacher's unions and doctors about the government's proposals. There will be many different opinions throughout our own school community on the government's position and everyone will have their own reasons for where they stand on this. I fully understand the real concerns people have about children's safety and the safety of the wider community, particularly for our more vulnerable. I also understand the impact school closures are having on our children's education and well-being as well as our economy. Public Health England say that we are likely to have sustained transmission of the virus in our population until a vaccine is available. We therefore need to balance reducing the spread of the virus with the extensive and far reaching negative impacts of a lockdown situation. But there are no easy answers.

The government's expectation is that, providing the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing, schools will partially re-open on 1st June and that eligible children are strongly advised to attend.

The plans we are putting in place follow the guidelines produced by the government and the school staff will ensure that the hierarchy of measures set out by the government are followed. These are:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of settings
- And minimising contact and mixing

I am attaching a copy of our plan for re-opening and a list of questions and answers which I hope will provide some assurance around our strategy.

I appreciate many of you will have concerns about your own individual situations. I am happy to offer any advice I can and parents are welcome to contact me through the school office email on admin@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk and either myself or someone from the senior leadership team will respond.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Woolley

Headteacher