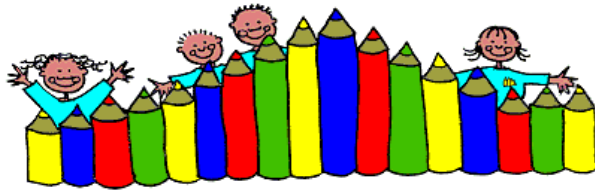


Oldbrook First School

Living and Learning Together



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VERY IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING THE SURVEY

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and thank you for your patience whilst we make decisions about next steps in the possibility of re-opening school. You will see that we have put a survey on-line asking parents to either opt in or opt out in relation to your child returning to school before the summer holidays.

Before you complete the form please read the following as it is important that you know what school will be like for your child should you decide to send them back once school starts a staggered re-opening.

The most important thing is that it is YOUR choice and there will be NO penalties for non- attendance. School will not be school as you or your child know it. For you to make an informed decision you need to know the facts of what this will look like for your child.

You will have heard the government's plans to begin to phase in the opening of schools from the earliest 1st June. Given the level of planning and changes to the school environment that need to be put in place in order to reduce the risk of infection to staff, children and you at home, we are not able to open until all of this has been considered and completed and therefore at this time we do not have a definitive date for opening.

The Government phased return applies to Nursery, Reception and Year 1 only. If all pupils return in these year groups we would have around 125 children in school and a large number of staff.

Government guidance so far is still limited and focuses on splitting children into small teaching groups with the same adult and same children at all times, staggered starts to the day and staggered finish times to avoid congestion at the school gates with one adult only dropping off and collecting. We are being asked to clean surfaces continuously throughout the day and set out classrooms for social distancing, avoiding contact with children and between children. We will be promoting social distancing however we cannot guarantee it at all times as I am sure you can understand children of this age do not understand this. The reasons childhood illnesses spread in a school is because we are all in contact with each other. Our priority will be planning to make things as safe as we possibly can however we cannot take away the risk of potential infections.



School will be a very different place for all. Children will be sorted into small groups with an adult. This is unlikely to be their class teacher and they will not be with their friends. Groups cannot mix at all and children will have to try to remain two metres apart from each other. This is necessary so that any outbreak of the virus can be tracked and traced and anybody in a group who may become unwell will result in the whole group being sent home and having to self-isolate whilst testing is undertaken. The very nature of the open plan of our building poses a greater challenge in terms of separating groups of children. The groups will be small to support social distancing which is key to making things as safe as is possible. Therefore, we are proposing at this time that groups can only accommodate between 6 to 10 pupils and one adult. With 125 children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 split into groups, I would need 21 different spaces and adults if all 3 years came in together which is not possible and not safe.

The youngest children will find this all very difficult. They won't have access to all the practical resources they would normally have because they all have to be kept clean to avoid infection. Young children learn by touching, doing, being with others and sharing – all of which will have to be limited as far as is possible. There is a possibility that your child will also find the new way in which we are having to run school difficult, causing them upset and potentially not wanting to be at school. This could have a negative impact and change their positive view of schooling, something that we also would want to reduce.

Our aim will be to provide children in school with the same learning opportunities as what is set for home learning. Teachers will also be continuing to plan home learning that is currently set.

Of course, some of you will have the pressure of returning to work and other personal circumstances that you will need to also factor into your decision. We will of course support you in any decision that you make and will work tirelessly to ensure we can provide the very best that we can within these constraints for your child but ultimately the safety of your child and staff members is the most important factor in all of this at this time.

Should you decide that you wish for your child to stay at home, that is absolutely fine and I assure you I will totally understand and respect that. What I do ask though is that you decide one way or the other so that our planning ensures the safety of all and minimises as far as possible the spread of this deadly infection.

This has been a very difficult letter to write and I thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Take care and stay safe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Hopkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr K Hopkins
Head Teacher