



# Oughton Primary & Nursery School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs L Clayton

**Assistant Headteachers:** Mrs E Carroll & Mrs C Phillipson

14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. I am writing to you to update you at a very tricky time. Presently, school places have not changed. It is still only Key Worker children and vulnerable children who are able to come into school this week and next week. The school is closed for other children.

On Sunday evening, the Government announced a plan for a phased reopening of Primary schools starting with Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children on 1<sup>st</sup> June. This is due to be followed approximately 3 weeks later by Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 attending school. However, these dates are not definite, the Government has stated that we **may** open on 1<sup>st</sup> June **at the earliest**, depending on conditions across the country having been met.

On Monday evening, we received guidance on how this should be implemented. This guidance raises a lot of questions for us and presents us with many challenges. Any plans that we implement around 1<sup>st</sup> June must set the pattern for the proposed whole school return.

At present time, there are many debates regarding the decision of the recommendation for the phased opening of Primary schools in England. Please be aware that some Unions are not supporting these decisions.

The Government has produced some guidance for Parents - Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers. I have attached this document for your information.

It is currently my job, along with the school Governors, teachers and other staff to formulate plans on how this will work in practice, following the Government guidance. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have been in constant contact and have begun formulating these plans. Yesterday, I held a full staff meeting using our technology so that we could update staff regarding the current situation. I am also working closely with the other Hitchin Headteachers.

I am looking into how to implement the guidelines safely for all - Parents, children and staff. As I am sure you are aware, this is not an easy job, especially with some staff shielding and not able to come to school plus the fact that we can only have 15 children per room. Therefore, whatever plans are put into place, please be aware that it is highly unlikely that children will be back to school full-time this term. I will let you know of our plans as soon as I possibly can. I know that many Parents are very concerned about the situation.

Please continue to ensure that your child knows what a 2m distance looks and feels like. We know that you have been supervising frequent and thorough handwashing. I am sure that you have spoken to your children about the coronavirus and how to keep themselves safe. The more they understand, the more they will be at ease with the 'new normal'. If the school opens for some children on 1<sup>st</sup> June, it will be different, as the world is at present.

Our highest priority is to be as safe as we can, for the children, Parents and staff. Please bear with us and appreciate that we are doing all we can to safely re-open the school when and if, we feel confident to do so.

Please take care of yourselves and your families, most of all keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Clayton  
Headteacher