

# VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER – TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

WWW.VANEROADPRIMARY.CO.UK

### Message from Mr. Pavey

I was hoping to send this information to you on Sunday evening after the Prime Minister's announcement but, with a lack of detail, I decided I would wait until Monday, when we were assured that more details of how children would be returning to school would be given. Cunningly, whilst we were all watching the Daily Briefing wondering where the details were, the Department for Education, quietly, slipped the information onto its website. I was actually writing a message to you saying that we had no more details when a colleague alerted me to this (Boris did say Stay Alert!).

Throughout these challenging times, I have been keen to ensure that I share everything that I know with all parents/carers as soon as I know it. I know that there is a view that we, as school leaders, have additional information that we hold back from you but I can assure you that this is not the case – I find out everything at the same time as everyone else. Below is a link to the information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings#class-or-group-sizes>

They have also published information for parents/carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Since this information was released, I have been working with the Senior Leaders of the school to develop a plan for our school to return in line with the guidance. I am sure, having read the guidance, that you will appreciate that this is no small task. We are all desperate to get the children back into school and all members of staff want this to happen. I am concerned however that the conditions set out in the guidance are almost impossible to achieve (eg. social distancing with Reception children) that this will cause the Trade Unions to object to the plans and so making it seem like schools are the ones resisting a return. I promise that we will do all that we can to develop a plan that keeps children at the heart of what we are doing and aims to follow the guidance to the letter. What I am sure I won't be in a position to be able to promise is that the plan will alleviate all risks to your families, the staff and the children. I am delighted that they have confirmed that parents/carers will not be prosecuted if you don't send your children to school during this period. This means that whatever plan we develop, it remains the decision of parents/carers of children whether or not to send their children to school. I appreciate that this will be a very difficult decision for some of you to make but it is right that this is a parental preference.

The plan we develop will be the best we can hope to achieve and I will be completely honest with you about how effective I think it will be in stopping the spread of the virus. As it stands, I can't see how we can achieve social distancing in a school setting. The senior leaders and I have been discussing putting groups of 15 or less children together with the same teacher so that whilst in school each group becomes a 'bubble' within school. This is merely the first of probably a number of plans we will develop over the week. I will be sharing the first draft of the plan with staff tomorrow and the governors towards the end of the week. This will give them an opportunity to share their views on the plan. I hope to share the plan with parents/carers early next week and give you the opportunity to share your views. I know that the final plan will not be acceptable to everyone but I hope that everyone will feel that their views have been considered.

The current Government plan is that all children in primary school will be able to return to school from about 22<sup>nd</sup> June, whilst this may be the case, I want to manage everyone's expectations, including those returning on 1<sup>st</sup> June. I doubt very much that any of our end of summer activities such as school fairs, trips, sports days and even leavers' assembly will be able to take place. This is not because we don't want to but that it will be impossible under the Government's guidance to do so. I will be delighted if I am wrong! The learning that the children will access is likely to focus on their basic English and Maths skills alongside supporting their well-being.

On Monday we will upload the next [Home Learning Sheets](#) which will provide ideas for home learning for the week until half term. I did consider changing the format of this learning but I will delay a decision on this until after half term. If you have any questions, want any further information or just want to share your views, the best thing to do is to email the school on [vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net](mailto:vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net). We will respond as soon as we can.

Please take care of yourselves and each other, get in touch if you need anything.

[vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net](mailto:vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net)