



Newton's Primary School

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Executive Headteacher - Mrs H McClenaghan

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Together we reach for our personal best

14th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know the government has requested that schools reopen to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and for our vulnerable pupils. We are also instructed to offer childcare to more key workers who are no longer able to work from home. If this applies to you, please call the school office. At the present moment in time schools are being requested to reopen however this is not a definite decision as yet. The government will confirm if the reopening goes ahead following their data collections of current infection rates and the spread of the virus.

We have asked parents in the specified year groups to indicate if their child will be returning to school. We need this information in order to assist us in planning how to reopen the school.

At this time, I do not have definite plans in place as it will depend on the number of pupils returning and the number of staff I have available in order to reopen the school safely. It is highly likely that on reopening that pupils will only return for part of the week and will not return full time Monday to Friday. We have to have enough staff in order to reopen the school safely so again this all depends on pupil numbers and staff availability. We are currently working on an Action Plan to ensure that the school is as safe as possible for pupils, staff and parents to return. I am sure you are all anxious as to what this will look like, as are we.

As a parent/carer it is your choice whether to send your child back to school or not. You will not be fined for not sending your child back to school.

I can advise you that: -

- The safest place for your child continues to be at home.
- The safety of your child and the safety of staff will remain the priority at all times.
- Pupils will be in groups of no more than 15 pupils.
- Pupils will not be with their normal friendship groups due to pupil groups being smaller.
- It is highly likely that your child will not be in their normal classroom and will not have their normal teacher.
- You will not be fined if you choose not to send your child back to school.
- The curriculum will be different to normal curriculum delivery as not all resources will be available to the children to prevent the spread of the virus.
- If your child has an EHCP it is highly likely that the support they receive will not be their normal support.
- I would request that you source a face mask for your child made out of material that will enable you to wash it rather than a disposable one. We would prefer pupils to wear face masks to protect others from the virus
- I cannot eliminate the possibility that your child may be exposed to the virus at school
- I cannot guarantee that pupils will keep a social distance from your child at all times. They are children they naturally gravitate towards each other and towards staff.
- We will come up with a one-way system for parents dropping pupils at school, one entrance will be used for entry and another entrance for exit.

- Pupils will have staggered drop off and pick up times to avoid parents congregating in the playgrounds and putting themselves at risk.
- Pupils will have staggered lunchtimes, playtimes, toilet and hand washing breaks.
- Pupils will remain in the group that they are placed in for the duration of their time in school and will not mix with other groups of pupils.
- We cannot guarantee at this time that all pupils will be able to attend full time Monday – Friday. It will most likely be 2 days a week that we can offer.
- We have not as yet received guidance when remaining year groups are expected to attend school in the future.
- Pupils will continue with regular handwashing practice that was in place before the closure.
- If your child is suspected of displaying symptoms they will need to be collected from school immediately
- Home school activities will still be planned for all pupils continuing with home learning.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the building at any time all communication will need to be done via the phone or email

I am sure you will still have a number of questions and concerns but hopefully as more guidance is given to us we can share our plans with you. Please bear with us, this is all new to us too and we are trying to make sense of it all.

Stay safe and take care.

Best wishes,

H McClenaghan
Executive Headteacher
Una Connolly
Interim Headteacher