Dear Parent/Carers,

**Plans for the re-opening of the school to certain year groups**

Following on from our letter sent last Friday (15.5.20), I write to you with more information for key worker families/vulnerable groups and children in Years 6, 1 & Reception. **This is dependent on meeting the criteria set out by the government towards the end of May – it is possible that the information in this letter could change.**

There is a lot of information to share with you so I apologise for the length of this letter in advance!

**Starting each year group safely**

We are preparing to have a phased return for children in Years 6, 1 & Reception and we have allocated each year-group with a revised start time to support site management.

- **Monday 1st June** - key worker and vulnerable groups only from the revised times of 8.00am (if needed) until 3.15pm
- **Tuesday 2nd June**: Year 6 children
- **Thursday 4th June**: Year 1 children
- **Monday 8th June**: Reception children

**The beginning and end of the school day**

Within each year group, children will start at 15 minute intervals to reduce the number of adults on site at any one time. We are sending a chart stating the time slots for each small group. It is essential that you stick to that time slot and enter and leave the school site using the routes described. We will not be opening the school gate on St Paul’s Road because the path is narrow and social distancing will be hard to maintain.

Only one adult from each family should bring their child onto the school site please.

**Group sizes**

Although the current government guidelines state that children can be placed into groups of up to 15, we have decided that it is better for children to be in groups of up to 10. This has allowed us to spread out the furniture in classrooms more effectively. We have tried to group children with friends but obviously not every child can be placed with their own teacher. Not all parents have felt able to state whether or not they wish to send their children back to school and this has meant that we have had to leave spaces available in groups. The organisation of groups, staff and classroom spaces has been incredibly difficult and therefore we are **NOT ABLE TO SWAP GROUPS AROUND.**

Further support (photos and videos) regarding the new site layout and how classrooms will be organised can be found on our school website in the coming days.
How will learning be organised?

For those children not returning to school, home learning packs will continue to be uploaded onto Class Dojo every Friday afternoon at 3pm. Due to the high volume of staff now in school, the frequency of response to children's uploaded work will now be once a week. Your child’s class teacher may well be working with other children and so responses may come from another member of staff.

Children in school will be using the same themes from the home learning packs to help us keep a similar experience for all children.

Do children need to wear uniform?

We are advising families to send their children to school in uniform if possible as the clothing is suitable for school activities. Government guidelines advise that clean clothes be worn every day so it may not be possible to choose uniform each week day. Your child will not be in trouble if they need to wear clothes other than their uniform.

We do not need you to send in PE kit so if your child wishes to wear trainers that is ok for the time being also.

Please do not feel you need to spend money on new uniform at this point in the school year!

What should my child bring to school?

If your child has a school reading book at home we would very much appreciate its return. On a daily basis your child should bring their own water bottle and a playtime snack if you wish, but no pencil cases or other home items.

If your child will be having a packed lunch, it would be great if you can send it in a disposable bag. Please don't worry if that is not possible.

Each child in Year 1 and Year 6 will have a tray of their own, on their allocated desk and school will provide everything they need on a personalised basis.

School Meals

All children in Reception and Year 1 will be able to have a lunch provided for them at no cost by the school as part of the Universal Free Meals scheme. Please note that families of children attending school will not continue to receive the Free School Meals voucher even if you choose to make the packed lunch at home.
Year 6 children can opt to have a school made lunch (paid or via the Free Meals arrangement) or bring a packed lunch from home.

To support social distancing, school meals will be in a packed lunch form until the end of the school year.

**Friday afternoon closing**

Inspire Trust has decided to close all of its schools on a Friday afternoon for the following reasons:

- Teachers need to plan activities together - this would normally happen within each school week however at the moment we are advised that one adult should remain with their group to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. That means that we can’t cover classes in the same way as normal.
- Friday afternoons will be used to complete a deep clean each week.

Parents should note that our school will have cleaners on site at all times and higher risk areas (sinks, toilets, door handles) will be cleaned during the day as well as at the end of each day.

WE WILL CONTACT YEAR 6 PARENTS AT THE END OF THIS WEEK TO INFORM YOU ABOUT YOUR CHILD’S GROUP ALLOCATION. THESE GROUPS ARE STILL BEING FINALISED.

YEAR 1 AND RECEPTION CHILDREN WILL BE INFORMED OF THEIR GROUPS AFTER HALF TERM.

We’d like to thank you for your patience during this challenging time and we will continue to update you with more information as and when we are able.

Take care,

Mrs G Bowser
Headteacher