



Headteacher
Mr. Dale Bateman

Coopersale and Theydon Garnon C. of E. V.C Primary School

Brickfield Road,
Coopersale,
Epping,
CM16 7QX

Tel: 01992574890

Email: admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk

Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: update on reopening the school to priority year groups

I sincerely hope that you and your families are continuing to stay safe and well in these challenging times.

I would also like to thank you for your patience across the beginning of June, particularly the parents/carers of our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (the selected groups by government for a next phase of reopening), as we have continued to work through the challenges of preparing a return to school plan that complies with ever-changing Government guidance whilst prioritising the safety and wellbeing of our children. Currently, our 3 keyworker/vulnerable pupil groups are successfully running with all children and staff onsite, remaining safe and well.

From next Monday, we have been able to increase our staffing team which, in turn, means that we will be able to safely welcome more pupil groups back and progress to the next phase of reopening our school.

Reopening for Reception children

From Monday June 15th, all Reception children will be able to return to school if parents/carers wish them to. This return will consist of 3 Reception groups operating on a part-time basis with children attending from 10am to 12pm or 1pm to 3pm each day. The current (full-time, 9am to 2.45pm) Reception keyworker group also has spaces available. If you or your partner is a keyworker parent/carer of a Reception child, you have the option of full day or part day participation.

So what's the next step for Reception parents/carers whose children are not already attending school?

Please email Miss Luck on: Receptionclass@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk before 4pm, Thursday 11th June, letting her know if you would like your child to return to school from June 15th. I apologise for the tight deadline but, as you will appreciate, we need as much time as possible to prepare and safely open the school to the next phase of children. We will email you back on Friday 12th June, confirming the group that your child will be joining. For those parents/carers who, understandably, do not feel able to make a decision by this deadline but who, ultimately, decide that they would like their child to return to school, we will do our best to accommodate the return in a next phase as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so. Please keep Miss Luck updated on your decision.

Will we be reopening school provision to Year 1 and Year 6 before the summer holidays?

Our risk assessment is what guides this decision and this is based on guidance provided to us by the Government and the Department for Education as well as various other factors such as class sizes and staffing ratios. However, the top priority will always be the safety of our children and staff. On the basis of current guidance and our assessment, School leaders are confident that, from Monday 22nd June, a part time return can be made available to parents/carers of children in Year 6. We will write again next week to confirm the arrangements for the Year 6 return in more detail. Once we have been able to properly assess the impact of Year 6 joining Reception, keyworker and vulnerable pupil groups on site, we will be in a better position to assess whether we can safely welcome back Year 1 children before we break up for summer. We will of course keep both Year 1 and Year 6 parents updated as soon as we can confirm more.

Clinically vulnerable

If your child is "clinically vulnerable" and at a higher risk of severe illness as a result of contracting Coronavirus, you should also have received Government advice about shielding and should take further medical advice to decide whether it is safe to return to School. If your GP or medical practitioner requires any information from the School about the arrangements in place for a clinically vulnerable child's return, please contact admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk

Attendance is your choice

We are living in challenging and ever-changing times and we, as a School, appreciate that parents/carers will have differing views and opinions about the appropriate time for children to return to School. Whilst we are confident that we have safe and appropriate procedures in place, I want to reassure you again that we are not pressuring parents/carers to send their children to school and there will be no penalties for non-attendance. The home learning programme will remain available for all who wish to use it.

Home learning

For pupils who remain at home (for whatever reason), we will continue to support these children and their parents/carers with the home learning programme, and meal support for those eligible.

Contacting the school

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact your class teacher by emailing their class account, or for any other staff member, including school leaders, email:

admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk or phone the school office on: 01992574890 (currently manned between 9am and 4pm)

Finally, many of you will have seen the Education Secretary's announcement yesterday that the Government has dropped its plan for all primary school pupils to return to school before the summer break. We are awaiting further Government guidance on this and will update parents as to what this means for our pupils in Years 2 – 5 as soon as we are able. Whilst we want to welcome back all of our pupils as soon as possible, as above, we will continue to abide by Government guidance whilst, at all times, ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff and children.

Warm regards,
Mr Dale Bateman
Headteacher