

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents

### Reopening of Marsden Primary School

I want to begin by saying thank you to all parents who have continued to support school and their children by engaging with Home Learning activities. I as well as your child's teacher and Learning Support Assistant have loved seeing all the work that has been produced. Not all learners will be able to return to the school building before September so we really need you to continue with all the learning activities set by your teacher.

We know that you will have seen in the news that the Director of Public Health announced that he is now satisfied that a cautious reopening of schools in Lancashire can now take place. The guidance from Lancashire is that Leaders and Governing Bodies need to make plans based on the context of their school. We believe very strongly that the safeguarding of learners and staff has to be our main priority whilst making a continued and sustained effort to support all our learners. We have therefore made the following decisions.

#### When is the proposed date when school will open?

- School will open for teachers on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. They will spend that week ensuring that the learning environment is as safe as possible and will be making contact with all priority learners.
- Identified priority learners will be invited to start back at school from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. If your child is one of these learners you will receive a call next week on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
- On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the Inclusion Team will also be phoning identified vulnerable families and Key worker families who have previously filled in the request form. They will start back at school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Which year groups will be invited back into school?

- As Leaders we have taken the approach that, whilst these are unprecedented times, learning still needs to be our priority. We will begin by inviting five priority learners from each class (EYFS to Year 5 – not Year 6) based on similar learning needs.
- We want to make sure that our measures for maintaining safety are rigorous before we invite more learners into the school environment.
- Limiting the amount of people in school will help to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Government advice is that groups of learners stay in the same "bubble" and that during the day they do not mix with other children or adults. We believe that five is the best start to make this a safe "bubble".
- When we are confident that it is safe for more learners to be in school we will increase our numbers.

#### Will all year groups be invited into school at once?

- No, not all year groups will be invited back at once.
- We plan to have - Year 2, Year 3 coming into school first, followed by Year 4 and then Year 1, Year 5 and EYFS.
- Parents of the learners who will be invited back initially will be personally contacted by school staff so please do not contact school. We are very sorry that we cannot have all the children back as we are all missing their smiling faces and their eagerness to learn at school but it is not currently safe to have a large number of children in school.
- If your child is not invited back into school please continue to support their learning at home by engaging with the online tasks as these have been differentiated.

#### Why is Years 6 not being invited back to school at this time?

- At this point in time, we cannot guarantee the safety of having large groups of learners back. We would like to invite all of Year 6 back so that they could have the send off they deserve but this is not possible in the current climate. Year 6 teachers have been in contact with the majority of families and it was unanimously agreed that Year 6 would, for now, continue with engaging with teachers remotely via the Google Classroom platform. Teachers will support learners with transition and Secondary style learning via this platform. Through using Google Classroom, Year 6 will also be supporting Mr Oates in perfecting online learning so that it can be rolled out to the rest of the school.

### What will happen to online learning?

- Online learning will continue to be a major feature of how we engage with all learners. Teachers and LSA's will be provided with additional time, away from the classroom to plan online learning and maintain communication with learners as much as possible. Class teachers and LSA's will support all learners as they will be expected to submit at least one completed task via email.

### How will I know if my child is a learner who will be invited back into school?

- A member of the school team will be phoning you over the next few days. **Please remember that it is your choice as to whether you send your child back to school or not – you will not be fined if you do not wish for them to attend school at this time.** Your preference as to whether you want your child / children to attend school in June must be clearly stated at the beginning of this phone call – Yes or No.

### What if I am a Key Worker or the Inclusion Team have been keeping regular contact with me and my family?

- Key Worker identification rules have not changed so if you fall into the category of being crucial to the Covid-19 response then your child is still eligible for a place. We will be in contact with parents who have made contact with the Inclusion Team. If we do not have a request form from you, then unfortunately we cannot offer you an immediate place. If you do require a place, please contact the help email and a form will be sent to you.
- The Inclusion Team will work with families, who they have previously been working with, to risk assess their need and whether it is safe for them to be in school.

It is a very unsettling time for us all but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive more groups of learners in September. For now school will not be the same but we have to all work together to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved.

We have created a detailed Risk Assessment and this can be found on our website. Please read this so that you know what the school's reopening will look like in practice. Precautions taken will include:

- Limiting class sizes and learners to only mix within their safe 'bubble' of five - including the same teacher and LSA
- Staff may have to wear PPE
- Learners to be provided with their own stationary packs
- Desks to be 2m apart
- Staggering break times, lunch times and pick-up times
- Learners will have outside rest breaks but no contact sport will be allowed and the use of climbing equipment will be forbidden
- Book bags will not be allowed into school and water bottles will need to be taken home each day to be disinfected
- Increased planned and incidental cleaning
- Learners to wash their hands at regular times throughout the day
- Learners will constantly be reminded about "catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Keeping visitors away from the school premises
- Removing all soft furnishings
- Parents to leave learners at the gate – staff to ensure safe entry into school.  
At the end of the day, parents to follow school guidelines ensuring 2 m safety rule. Only one parent will be able to collect at the end of the day and learners will not be allowed to be picked up by another parent
- Isolating learners and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

Although we can do everything possible to ensure that the virus does not come into school we cannot guarantee this. The introduction of a hundred learners into school as well as adults makes it impossible to say we will remain virus free. If we have an incident of Covid-19, then all those in the "bubble" will be sent home and will have to self-isolate. It may also be the case that we would have to close the school completely.

If you have any questions if school opens in June, please do not hesitate to contact [support@marsden.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:support@marsden.lancs.sch.uk). 07726519810 (between 9.30am and 1.00pm)

Kind regards,

Mrs N Delamere



*Live To Learn, Learn To Grow*

