

12th May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

You will all by now be aware of the Government's recent announcement of its intention to allow Primary schools to re-open to children in the Early Years, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, with provision being offered from June 1st – the beginning of the second half of the Summer term. Please note that Critical worker children and vulnerable children will continue to be able to attend school, whichever year group they're in.

We have been assured that this gradual re-opening will only happen if the five key tests set by government have been met, particularly perhaps that there is confidence....

'that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections.'

There are, of course many things to consider and yesterday, the Government issued detailed guidance which is freely available on their website: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june</u>

We are currently planning how this first phase of wider opening can be implemented at all TEAM schools and are giving very careful consideration to aspects such as:

- Class sizes and staffing
- Ensuring physical/social distancing
- Staggering start and end of day times
- Cleaning and catering

The admin team are in the process of creating a 'Returning to School' tab on each individual school's website to enable us to provide you with regular updates and outline the practicalities of re-opening different settings. This facility should be in place next week.



Registered Office: Pilton Bluecoat Academy, Abbey Road, Barnstaple, EX311JU T: 01271 345952

Mrs R Nicholas – Executive Headteacher COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 8110847



As you can imagine, we are planning for many different scenarios but we want to work closely with you and take your lead in this. As parents, your children are the most precious things and you will naturally be extremely anxious about their return to school. There will be many questions which cannot yet be answered and there will be an inner anguish and wrestling of emotions – Should I? Shouldn't I? What's the risk? There are no guarantees in any of this and believe me, as a staff team, we are as uncertain and anxious as you. The only thing I can assure you of is that we will do our utmost to protect not only your children but ourselves from this unseen predator.

I would ask you now to consider your options carefully and ask you please to indicate through the ParentPay portal by this **Friday, 15th May**, whether you propose to send your child/children to school - if the Government states that it is safe to do so, from June 1st 2020.

Please note, the Government has re-iterated that:

'Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.....'

so, this should not play a part in your decision.

We will honour any decision you make and I assure you that you will not be judged on the route you choose to follow. The decision is entirely yours: there is no right or wrong in this!

All the very best to you and your loved ones.

Please keep safe,

Rhian Nicholas