

15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware the Prime Minister announced last Sunday evening his plans to re-open primary schools with a phased approach, **if feasible**, by 1st June 2020. This was subject to the five tests being proven as safe to do so.

The phased approach was prioritised in the order of children classified as vulnerable, and/or children of critical key-workers followed by Reception aged children, then children in Year 1 and finally, children in Year 6.

On Monday, nursery children were added to the priority list.

Later Monday night the DFE issued guidance on how they expect schools to do this.

On Thursday afternoon, a further document was released to say that all children of key workers are to be encouraged to return to school.

The Government has advised that further guidance documents will continue to be released and indeed last night further guidance documents for educational settings were released.

As you are already aware the guidance has caused much widespread concern among education leaders and there has been much in the press regarding this. A large number of our parents have already expressed concerns regarding the safety and well-being of their children returning to school whilst social distancing protocols are still in place nationally. The DFE has stated that parents will not be fined this summer if they choose to keep their children at home. I am also aware that there are many school staff extremely concerned for the health and well-being of the children who will be in their care and for their own and their colleagues' health and well-being. Many of the Cranmere staff team have children of their own so fully appreciate the difficulties faced by families continuing to work whilst managing their own childcare and home learning.

Following on from my letter on Monday to those families whose children the Prime Minister has said should be supported to return in a phased approach, I wanted to share our initial actions and how we are approaching the possible reopening of our school. **Please be assured that the physical safety and mental health and well-being of pupils, staff and families will remain paramount throughout our approach.**

1. We will be using the guidance as provided by the government and listening to advice from education unions, advisors and education leaders in Surrey as well as other Headteachers.
2. We have sent out surveys to all families to identify the number of children who may want to attend as per the priority list.
3. We are considering our staffing availability and needs. We already know that we will NOT have our full staff team available.
4. Then we will risk assess the opening of our school based on all of the information we have, which will include the expected additional guidance expected from Surrey Local Authority and the Government throughout this week.
5. **IF** we are able to reopen safely, we will be fully transparent with parents/carers on what Cranmere's offer will look like. We already know that it would **not look like a normal school day or week**:
 - it may not be possible for all the year groups identified by the Government to be back in school on the 1 June as the priority is for vulnerable and key-worker children

- it is likely that the curriculum will be modelled upon the home learning set for those children not in attendance.
 - whole classes would not all be together but split into smaller groups as a 'household' and that each household will stay together throughout their time in school with the same household leader (teacher or support assistant).
 - the school length of day will vary
 - part time attendance is likely as we may have to gradually admit small groups
 - children are unlikely to be in their own classrooms or with their own teachers or teaching assistants.
 - staggered entry and dismissal as well as breaks and lunchtimes will be introduced as the households will not be able to mix.
6. Although Government advice has stated that younger children cannot be expected to maintain social distancing of 2m apart we will endeavour to maintain as much distance as is possible and will plan to have other safety measures in place

I am sure that you will appreciate there are many factors and risks for us to consider and work towards reducing.

I will share information about the possible wider reopening of Cranmere and which Year groups we can safely support phased entry for, as soon as I have it. Of course we must bear in mind that the Prime Minister said that the reopening of schools is subject to the safety and well-being of all involved and that he would be guided by the 5 tests being proven as safe to do. We await this news as anxiously as you do.

I thank you for your patience and support as Cranmere staff team and Governors work towards this next phase of re-opening our school in a phased approach.

Kind regards,



Mrs Kathie Daniels
Headteacher



Mrs Linda Burkitt
Chair of Governors