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Acting Headteacher: Miss Deborah Coggin BA(Hons), NPQSL

Tuesday 12th May 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

As you may have heard, it is the intention of the government to allow children from Little Oaks, Reception and Year One (Rowan) and Year Six (Beech) to return to school to continue their formal education. More guidance was published last night and in my opinion the people who wrote this have forgotten what it is like to be in a primary school classroom!

I am very keen for children to return back to school, however only if it is safe for everyone. The guidance states that '*children of all ages have less severe symptoms*', '*limiting the numbers of children...reduces the risk of increasing rate of transmission*', '*reducing class sizes*', '*encouraging good hand and respiratory hand and respiratory hygiene*'. All of these scientific arguments put forward by the government we will tackle and overcome. However, there is no mention of adults and I do have to consider the adults in the school and not just the children. Nowhere in the scientific advice does it identify that this will be safe for the adults in the school, so I have to ensure that everyone in the school is as safe as can be.

There is no way that children will be able to adhere to the 2m social distancing in school. There is no way we can clean every surface or piece of equipment once a child has used it and moved on. There is no way we can stand over every child to ensure they have washed their hands correctly. However, we can keep reminding children to keep their distance; we will clean each classroom twice a day and remove equipment that is more difficult to clean e.g. teddies, clothes; we will use all the available space to us and every class will have at least one lesson per day (weather permitting) outside. Whatever we introduce will only be for the first couple of weeks as when other year groups are allowed to come to school, we will have to restructure.

Stagger starts and finishes will be in place; using different entrances; no adults except school staff will be able to enter the school; allocate provision for children of key workers. I have to work out how we are going to split classes up, so no class has more than 15 children. I will then have to allocate teachers and teaching assistant to classes as well as ensure that the quality of education reaches my high standards. However, for the first couple of weeks, play will be an integral part of the child's education as well as a focus on transition for the older children. Children will need to socialise and enjoy each other's company as this is what most children have missed more than anything else.

For me to get an overview of your opinions please can you email head@northchapelprimary.co.uk if you are not intending to send your child to school on Monday 1st June. Also, please can you email me about any concerns or worries about sending your child back to school. It is my intention to take these on board and create a plan, which I would like to share with you on Monday 18th May.

I know these are worrying times and as a parent I am going through these same worries. However, I will do



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everything feasibly possible to keep your child and the adults in school safe. I want the children to enjoy their time at school and especially year 6, who have only a few weeks with us left.

I look forward to receiving your opinions or questions.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Deborah Coggin
Acting Headteacher

