**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# Culcheth Community Primary School

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**www.culchethprimary.co.uk**

**Headteacher**

**Mrs A Dodd BSc (Hons) NPQH**

**22.5.20**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to share our arrangements for a proposed planned return to school. This plan has been agreed as the safest option by our School Governing Body.

The government have made it clear that the gradual reopening of schools will only take place providing that their 5 key tests justify the changes at the time. Please be advised this is all subject to change based on the latest government guidance and that schools may also need to close for a short period of time if safety risks are identified. Parents and carers will be updated prior to any changes being made.

**The earliest date in Warrington that some groups of children can attend any school will be from 8th June**.

Parents will need to decide whether to follow government advice or not to allow your child to return to school, however it should be taken in to account that children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, due to pre-existing medical conditions, or children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, are not expected to return to school for the time being. **Parents who decide not to send their child back to school until September will not receive any penalty or fine.**

There will be changes to the start and end of the school day to stagger the timing to avoid parents congregating and to enable the two metre social distancing. Times will be confirmed with parents when they are finalised. Playtimes will also be staggered.

In order to continue to provide a safe learning environment for our children we will be **gradually increasing** the numbers of children attending school while it remains safe to do so. It is thought that by returning children gradually, we can initially reduce the number of children in classrooms compared to normal and it will allow us to put **protective measures in place to reduce risks**. This is why the School Governors have chosen to welcome most groups of children back on a part time basis as they felt that it was important to allow all children to be with their own class teacher, to maintain some normality for the children and to allow them to be taught by a teacher. They also felt that lunchtimes were a time that would be very difficult to manage safely, especially in terms of handwashing and toilet use for large numbers of children.

**Proposed Return Dates – this is subject to change if required by Government**

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| --- | --- |
| Monday 8th June | Reception Class – offered either am/pm session |
| Monday 8th June | Year 6 – **full time for 2 weeks only** to work on transition – after this period a transition pack will be provided that has been developed with Culcheth High school and other local primaries for children to work on independently at home |
| Monday 15th June | Y1 am/pm sessions |
| Friday 19th June | **Y6 finish** |
| Monday 22nd June | Y5 and Y3 am/pm sessions |
| Monday 29th June | Y4 and Y2 am/pm sessions |
| * If your child is in a class where am/pm sessions are offered, you will be advised which session they are invited to in the week of June 1st. | |
| NO after school clubs or wrap around care for the remainder of the summer term. | |
| School will close for the summer (as previously arranged) on Friday17th July | |

The government recognises that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children will find it more difficult to remain two metres apart from each other and staff, therefore additional measures have been put in place to try to minimise the risks of transmission, including:

* frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
* regular cleaning of all areas in school
* anyone showing even mild symptoms will be sent home and testing requested (adults and children)
* minimising contact and mixing, with children being put into small groups that do not mix
* no shared use of equipment such as pencils/pens/rulers etc
* separate working areas for each group of children

While we continue to put in place a range of control measures to minimise risks, this will not mean that risks can be removed altogether.

We are aware that many parents have real concerns about sending their children back to school and we can assure you that the safety of our entire school family is the most important factor in our plans.

Our part time return plans offer parents more flexibility to send children into school at a later date if they choose to do so, as with part time groups, we will always be able to stay within the Government guidelines of no more than 15 children in a group.

We will be in touch after half term to confirm more details and which group your child is allocated to.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Dodd