



John Ray Infant School

"learning together, aiming high, proud to be ourselves"

Notley Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1HL

Telephone: 01376 323071

Email: enquiries@johnrayinfants.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher;

Mrs K Mills

13th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to keep you up to date with our planning for the children's return to school after the Half Term break. As you will be aware, the Government has asked that schools open up for EYFS and Year One children from June 1st if it is deemed safe to do so. Unfortunately this offer is sadly currently not extended to our Year Two children. I am sure you will be feeling confused as to why the Government has chosen these Year Groups to return first. We too are confused and have no further insight into why this decision has been made.

Thank you to the almost 200 of you who have returned your questionnaires (we did not send this out to Year Two) as this has allowed us to gauge your feelings on the children returning to school.

About 50% of you would not send your children back to school in June and we have been advised that parental choice will be accepted at this difficult time.

After closely following Government guidance, we have spent the last two days measuring classrooms and trying to organise the best possible way for the children to return to school. We are sadly unable to provide a full time offer as classroom sizes do not allow us keep staff and children safe and appropriately distanced from each other.

We are only able to fit 9 children into each class at a time and once we have grouped these children, they will need to stay in this group until the end of the Summer Term. We expect we will need to put the children into two groups per class, anticipating that some of the children from each class will not be returning until September.

Government guidelines indicate that we need to keep each group of children separate during the school day and they will therefore eat, play and learn as a small group from June until the end of the term and will not mix with any other children in school. They will stay with the same adults in the same classroom for this period.

We will therefore be allocating each child who wishes to return either a Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday offer. We will be unable to have any flexibility within this due to the need to keep the children separate. We will be carrying out a deep clean of the school on the Wednesday to prepare for the change of groupings. We will also be using this time to prepare online and home learning for the children currently not attending school. The children in school will be following a modified curriculum timetable which will not be childcare based.

Although this plan has not been finalised, this is likely to be the plan for June 1st and we will keep in close contact with you over the next two weeks. Due to the changing nature of the Covid -19 outbreak, we must be led by Government and Local Authority decisions as to whether we open as planned at this time. We will do

our very best to keep you informed of changes as soon as we know them, but like you, we are currently hearing updates at the same time that you are.

We were due to have a non-pupil day on Monday June 1st, however, this will now no longer be the case and our first day of term will be on Monday 1st June.

This has been an extraordinarily difficult three days trying to take into account Government expectations and our hands are tied with the flexibility we are able to offer. We appreciate that many of you who may have been expecting your child to return full time in June will be disappointed, however it is of paramount importance that we prepare the best plan for keeping the children and staff as safe as we possibly can in the space that we have available.

I am extremely saddened that Our Year Two children are not able to come back to school but we will do our very best to ensure that we can offer them the 'Goodbye' they deserve before the end of the school year. Thank you for your patience and support, not only now but over the last eight weeks when you have been working at home to support your child. We will get through this together and we will be stronger for it.

Keep safe
Kind regards

Headteacher

