



## Silsoe V.C. Lower School, Chestnut Avenue, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4GP

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15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parent survey regarding the potential re-opening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June

Further to my letter earlier in the week regarding the potential phased return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June, we are now planning what the school re-opening would look like in practice and how we can make it as safe as possible.

The government would like to strongly encourage parents of children in returning year groups **Reception and year 1** to send their children to school. Getting back to school in some form before the summer will enormously support children's mental well-being, social skills and academic progress. However, the government has made it clear that there will not be any penalties at this stage for non-attendance. For the time being, the school's usual attendance policy (including the use of fines) will not be used.

It is the government's ambition to have all primary aged children return to school at some point before the end of the summer term, however we are not yet in a position to say when or if this will happen.

The local authority have asked the government for further clarification regarding transition for year 4, who are due to move to Middle School. We will update you when we hear more.

If schools re-open on 1<sup>st</sup> June, there will be a provision at our school for the children of key workers who cannot otherwise be cared for safely at home.

We will continue to provide home learning for year groups not eligible to return, and we are considering how we will continue to support year 1 and reception children with home learning if they choose not to return.

I understand that this is an unsettling time, but wanted to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to make sure that the safety of our pupils, parents and staff remains our priority. We will share more information with you over the coming days. Our plans will include the following key changes:

- Class sizes will be limited to a maximum of 15 pupils
- Classrooms will be re-configured to ensure that pupils are seated 2 metres apart
- New timetables
- Pupils will be kept together in teaching 'bubbles' so they are with the same adults and children throughout each day
- There will be staggered drop off and collection times with new processes and procedures in place
- Break and lunchtimes will be staggered
- New procedures will be in place for lunchtimes
- Frequent handwashing and good hygiene practices will be maintained
- Increased cleaning regimes will be in place throughout the school
- After school clubs will not run

Unfortunately at this stage we do not feel that we can operate Care Club safely but, over the coming weeks will continue to review this.

In order to assist our planning, we would like to get an initial indication of the number of pupils likely to be in school from 1<sup>st</sup> June if schools re-open. **Please could you complete the parent survey by 9am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

Thank you again for your ongoing support and understanding.

Stay safe and well, with very best wishes,

**Sarah Boyle**

Head Teacher