Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Walmley Junior School update

Firstly, I hope you are all well and continuing to keep safe. Since the Prime Minister’s announcement on Sunday 10th May regarding schools preparing to reopen to children, we have been waiting for further guidance and clarification so that we can begin to implement the safest return possible. We would like to thank you for your patience last week as it has taken a great deal of time to unpick the lengthy documents schools have been provided with as well as consult with Y6 parents, Walmley Infant School, other local Sutton schools, our own governing board and teaching unions in order to ensure we have the best approach for our school.

The government requests that all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should prepare to return to school from 1st June if safe to do so. It gives guidance on group sizes and social distancing as well as health and safety measures and guidance for staff. It allows for flexibility in how each school can meet this objective, e.g. due to the size of classrooms being different from school to school, schools may need to take a different approach.

**How do WJS plan to keep children as safe as possible?**

The biggest concerns amongst parents are the risk of infection with Covid-19 and maintaining social distancing. These views were echoed by school leaders and governors. We have taken a great deal of time to ensure we minimise the risks involved in reopening school and these can be found in our comprehensive risk assessment which is available on the school website from 3.30pm on Friday 22nd May.

Ensuring social distancing 2 metres apart has been the biggest challenge in our plans. We know that children will find this virtually impossible, particularly the youngest children, and so we can only try to minimise risks by keeping each group in a ‘bubble’ where they will only be in contact with minimum staff and not spend time with other children outside their group. However, we cannot guarantee children will adhere to social distancing so we would ask for your support to reinforce this message at home.

The school has already had thorough cleaning completed and we will aim to advance these measures to maintain high levels of hygiene. We have also ordered PPE equipment for staff as per government guidance.

**When will WJS reopen and to whom?**

From Monday 8th June we will reopen Walmley Junior School for children in Year 6 for two weeks in the first instance (Monday-Thursday 8.45am-3.30pm). This will allow us to review our practice and procedures as well update our risk assessment. Year 6 parents will receive another letter about their child’s return to school on Wednesday 3rd June.

**Key workers**

Throughout this time, we will also continue to provide school places for the children of two key workers (one key worker if a single parent). However, a booking form must be completed and confirmation from school must have been received before your child can attend. This will allow us to manage resources effectively.

**When will WJS open to other year groups?**

It is our longer term aim to reopen school for children from all year groups. In order for this to take place under current guidance, it means that it will be one-year group at a time as we don’t have the space or adult ratio available to support the smaller groups which have been recommended. Whilst we are not currently able to do this, we will let parents know as soon as we can.

**Social Distance Catch Up**

It has been so long since we have seen all the children and we have missed you all! To this end, we would like to invite children and one parent to join their class teacher for a free slushie and a chat in the sunshine for 45 minutes. We would ask you to bring your own blanket to sit on and ask that everyone uses the toilet before leaving home as these facilities will not be available.

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| **Class 1** | **Class 2** | **Class 3** | **Class 4** | **Class 5** | **Class 6** | **Class 7** | **Class 8** | **Class 9** |
| Tuesday 2nd June | | | Wednesday 3rd June | | | Thursday 4th June | | |
| 10.00am | 11.00am | 12.00pm | 10.00am | 11.00am | 12.00pm | 10.00am | 11.00am | 12.00pm |

**Home learning resources on our school website**

We will continue to upload learning resources on our school website for all year groups each day that school is open.

**School reports**

Teachers have written end of year reports and these will be sent to all parents as normal at the end of the school year. Depending on government guidance, we will endeavour to accommodate transition for all year groups so that they can meet their new teachers.

**Earlybirds (before and after school provision/Summer Clubs/ Year 2-3 Transition Club**

These will very much depend on government guidance and whether or not social distancing rules still apply. We will continue to review our practices as government guidance changes. This will be communicated to parents as soon as we have an update.

Walmley Junior School will not be back to normal for some time. Thank you to all parents and carers for your sustained efforts in providing Home Learning during challenging times. We firmly believe that school is the best place for children and we are very pleased to be able to begin the reopening of the school.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the tremendous support you have given since we were asked to close school. It has been brilliant to see so many families engaging with teachers on Twitter and I know the teachers look forward to catching up with pupils via the telephone chats.

Finally, please remember we are at school every day and we would love to hear from you if you need us.

Yours sincerely,

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| Mr S Pearson  Headteacher |  |