



# Fleet Primary School

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## Update – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. This week the Government announced the first tentative steps in easing some of the restrictions that have been in place during the current lockdown.

As I wrote on Sunday night, in respect to schools, the Government announced that if certain criteria are met in terms of their 5 tests, schools may begin to reopen from the 1st June to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. It should be stressed that this is only **if** the government thinks it's safe then based on their 5 key tests being met. The government has also stated that they want all primary children to have returned to school for the month prior to the summer break **if feasible** which means having all classes back by the end of June.

Since Sunday we have begun to get extra information specific to what measures we need to have in place to carry out the phased reopening. Some of the measure we will be required to take include limiting class sizes to no more than 15 children in a group and keeping that group, and the adult working with them, as isolated as possible from the rest of the school. It is recognized in the government guidance that following the social distancing rules in place for the general population will be difficult in schools, especially with the youngest children. Schools are asked to **minimize contact** and to space out the children as much as we can.

We have a number of challenges to overcome in being able to re-open under these conditions and from the many other measures we are being asked to implement. Fleet is a school with only 8 classrooms and no spare rooms. Limiting class/group sizes to 15 means we require 2 rooms for every year group. We simply do not have enough space (or staff) to be able to have all the children in together. We also have issues around pick up and drop offs as the government guidelines state that we need to minimize the number of adults on site at any time and ensure that they respect social distancing.

Myself and the senior leadership team, taking advice from Camden, are currently going through the government guidance as it comes out (we have some and more is expected in the coming days) trying to work out how best to make this work to ensure that children returning, parents coming onto site and the staff are all kept safe. To be able to best plan for the children coming back we need to know how many children will be returning.

It is highly likely, due to some of the restrictions I've mentioned above, that when we do reopen, classes will only be able to be in school for limited time in the week – this could be some full days or a combination of half days. The exact nature has yet to be determined and will be guided at all times by the need to ensure the safety of the children and staff. We will most likely continue to provide the home learning tasks for the remaining days when they cannot be accommodated in school. When children are in school, they may well be in a group without a teacher but working with a member of support staff who is being directed by the teacher – this is due to the guidance stating that adults should not move

between groups were possible. Obviously, once teachers are back in school working with a group of up to 15 children, their availability to be calling home twice weekly for check-ins will be affected.

I understand from conversations I have had with some of you, and from feedback from the conversations the teachers have had since Sunday's announcement, that many of you are anxious about sending your children back to school – as a father of 2 primary aged children it is an anxiety I share and I believe entirely understandable. Over the next few days you will receive a call from the office to find out if you plan to send your child back when if we are able to accommodate their year group. We will not be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best.

As we gather this information we will then be able to come up with a firmer plan of exactly what re-opening will look like for us at Fleet. As I have mentioned in previous communications, this is a challenge being faced by all schools at the moment and one that each school has to work out the best solution for our own context. Our buildings are different, our staff situations are different, so what a school along the road might be able to offer may not be what we can and vice versa.

It is not lost on us that whatever system we come up with is unlikely to please everyone but I hope we can count on your support to help us make whatever system we eventually follow work. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

**Summary of current key information (please note this could change as we receive more information from the government)**

- **If we open from 1st June**, we will only be opening initially for **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6**
- We will only be able to offer a few days/sessions a week for each year group
- Days, drop off and collection times will be different for each year group
- **If feasible** we will be opening for the other year groups at throughout June, again this will be part time with different drop off and collection times for each year group
- We will be phoning you to determine if you are planning to send your child to school once we are able to open
- Once we are clear on numbers and system of attendance we will contact again with timetable information

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We'll need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please do continue to do what you can and stay in touch with us about how your child is doing.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office by phone or by email

Best wishes



Don M<sup>c</sup>Gibbon  
Head Teacher