



Baildon Church of England Primary School
and Nursery

3rd June 2020

Dear Parent,

RE: Update on the Phased Re-opening of School

We are now in the position to be able to confirm with you our plans for the wider opening of school from 8th June.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this time. We have continued to receive several pieces of updated guidance from central government and **Bradford Council** along with information, guidance and important considerations/requirements from the many education unions and we have needed to take time to fully consider all of this information. We are also aware that the national picture in terms of the recent lock down and the 'road map' for the next stages have required parents to carefully consider and review their initial thoughts around sending their children to school.

Since our update on 22nd May, we received a significant increase in the number of eligible key worker parents and parents of vulnerable children requesting a school place for their child **who, as we previously shared with you, have to be given priority**. We have therefore had to take time to fully evaluate the potential numbers of parents now wishing to send their children back to school, alongside the guidance all schools and employers have an obligation to follow in order to reach a final decision around what we can reasonably and safely offer.

The guidance states very clear expectations around the arrangement of small groups or 'bubbles' of staff and pupils and that these groups should remain consistent each day. Children who are able must remain socially distanced and must have a designated classroom that is organised in a manner that supports this. I'm sure you can appreciate that, as a school, we have a finite amount of space and staffing available to be able to implement this guidance, and therefore meet our obligations around the health and safety of pupils, parents and staff.

As a result of the increase in the numbers of vulnerable children and children of key workers wishing to return to school, we regret to inform you that, **under the current guidance of bubbles of 15 children**, we have had to make the difficult decision that we will not be able to open up our offer to children in the groups which were identified by the Government of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The specific Government guidance sent to schools is below for your information:

Each setting's circumstances will be slightly different. Any setting that cannot achieve these small groups at any point should discuss options with their local authority or trust. This might be because there are not enough classrooms / spaces available in the setting or because they do not have enough available teachers / staff to supervise the groups. Solutions might involve

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children attending a nearby school (on a consistent basis). If necessary, settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:

• primary schools – nursery (where applicable), reception and year 1'

We are also aware that the national picture and the Government stance on moving out of lock down is evolving each week. We are only able to make the most appropriate decisions we can at any given time and with the information we have available to us. Please be assured that we will continue to re-evaluate any changes in guidance in the hope that we are able to admit more children back into school. We will keep you informed of any such plans via the newsletter in the first instance.

For those of **you who have a confirmed place and are** now preparing to send your child/children back to school from next week, you will receive a separate letter about all the necessary information which you will need about our arrangements.

Teaching and Learning Information

As we enter into our final half term of the year, we have evaluated our teaching and learning provision so that we can support both the children who are in school and those who are at home. We have identified a revised curriculum for the remaining **seven** weeks and work set at home will be the same as the work which is being undertaken in school but a week in arrears. We will be issuing a further letter totally dedicated to this later in the week with details of how to collect printed work packs if required.

Looking Further Ahead

A number of parents have enquired as to what is going to happen in the six week holidays and whether the school Care Club will be re-instated. Please note that, at the time of writing, there is no expectation that schools will remain open as they did from 23rd March to provide care over the holidays. If this situation changes, we will keep you informed. **We have been in contact with Funtastik regarding their plans and they have assured us that they will continue to evaluate the situation to see if it is feasible for them to operate in the six week holidays.**

Our newsletter will be reinstated next week which will continue to share latest guidance and information.

Keeping the school community in our prayers.

Yours sincerely

Mr Graham Kinsley
Chair of Governors

Mrs Mary Connor
Headteacher

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