

16th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

After last week's announcement you can probably imagine the amount of work, research and analysing of guidance that has happened, not to mention the anxiety levels that have risen across our whole school community. Thank you to all of you who have been in touch with messages of support and many apologies to those of you that have been in touch, but for whom we have no answers yet. Knowing your views is essential to inform our actions moving forward.

We acknowledge that it is difficult for you too, our community, to make clear decisions about work schedules, what to do for the best or even whether you would want to send your child to school in the current climate of risk. As always, it is very important for us to be open and honest and share what we know so far and keep you abreast of the advice and guidance we are following that is being updated almost daily. I am aware that I have drafted a number of letters which haven't actually gone out as the guidance is constantly updated. For those who wish to read up on key Government Guidance, there is a link to pertinent documents to our website [here](#).

At Lakeside Primary Academy we will need to consider and risk assess our plans safely and cautiously where staff, pupil and community safety is put first and foremost with no compromise.

Our initial intention is that children will work within small teams of up to 10 children with a designated member of staff in each 'team community'. This is based on the capacity of different classrooms ability to accommodate children whilst paying heed to the 2 metre social distances advice and staffing capacity. Children will not necessarily be in their current classroom or have their current teacher but we will endeavour to ensure that it is someone known to them.

Each 'team community' will be asked to enter and exit the school at staggered start times and also have set break times throughout the day. They will play, work and eat with their 'team community' group not mixing with any other children. Hand washing, good hygiene, mental health and wellbeing will play an integral part in daily activities.

Advice currently maintains that PPE is not necessary within a primary school and we are seeking further clarification on this. We have ordered masks, gloves and goggles for staff to use when providing first aid or intimate care to any child who may require this assistance.

We understand that some parents may not wish to send their child/ren back to school on the 1st June and our understanding is that there will be no financial consequence to keeping your child at home. We will endeavour to continue our commitment to **home learning for all** as long as we have enough staff to run it effectively and aim for a blended approach that will compliment what is happening in school. We appreciate that this keeps your child safe, in a stable consistent routine and keeps learning fluid.

We would like you to still be cautious about what you say to children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 and not make any promises about their return to school and how this will look until we are clear as a school.

Next week, we will be organising our room spaces carefully and when are clear about Vulnerable and Key Worker children uptake we will begin to make contact first with the family groups of children in EYFS. At this point, you are as up to date as we are.

I hope this helps, have a lovely weekend and thank you once again for your understanding.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Hayes-Smith'.

Helen Hayes-Smith

Head of School