

Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure some of you are waiting to hear how we are going to re-open the school for specific year groups from the 1st June 2020. We now have some government guidance and more information from the ODBST as to how we can plan for a partial reopening.

I am currently working on our plan for June 1st possible opening, but am not yet in a position to share with the school community. I do however want to share some of the issues that we are having to consider so you, as parents, have a better understanding going forward.

Initially we are being asked to re-open for Nursery, YR, Y1 and Y6 children, but there are very specific changes that primary schools need to consider. As you plan ahead, please note that the school will not be open for normal school hours and the children will have a reduced timetable. We may also not be open every day of the week. This is because we need to address the following issues:

- At all times we must consider the safety of the children and staff
- Class sizes of no more than 15 children
- Groups of children should not mix and so will be socially distanced
- Staff should not work with more than 1 group of children
- Classes may not be taught by their usual teacher/teaching assistant
- Start times and pick up times should be staggered for all groups
- We may not have enough members of staff as some are self-isolating and/or shielding
- We still need to plan for the learning of the Home School children
- The provision of lunches for the children
- The curriculum
- A reduced timetable and/or a reduced day.
- Supporting children socially and emotionally with the return to school
- How we use the site so that the groups of children are appropriately distanced
- Allsorts will not be available for all children

There are a number of challenges that lay ahead, including the fact that the advice changes on a daily basis which makes planning a challenge. Every schools is experiencing a range of difficulties and will therefore be planning differently, with some schools being able to plan more or less provision than others. I think CtS falls somewhere in the middle. It is however, my wish to support the children in returning to school as soon as it is safe to do so and I will do everything I can to ensure that this happens. I am aiming to share our offer with you by the end of next week, to support you in making your own plans. I will keep you updated if this should change in any way.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Quirk