



George Dixon Primary School

City Road, Birmingham, West Midlands B17 8LE

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15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that this email finds you and your family well, and that you are managing to cope with the current situation as best as you are able.

I believe it is important to be transparent with you all about where we currently are at the moment, and it is for this reason that I want to share with you my initial thoughts following the recent Government announcements regarding the planned phased return to school should the rate of infection continue to decline and the 5 tests are met.

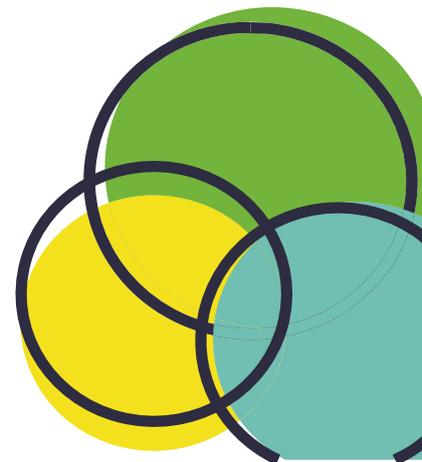
The health and safety of all our pupils, parents and staff remain our top priority and, therefore: we will only increase our numbers if/when it is safe to do so.

I am in the initial stages of processing the latest Government guidance and applying it to our school. Given the level of planning and changes to the school environment that need to be put in place to ensure we have a COVID19 secure school, this is taking some time to complete - but we are working hard to ensure it is completed effectively.

So far,

- we have carried out a general parent survey in the 3 year groups that would return, to collect your thoughts on pupils returning to school on/after 1st June. The results will be analysed and considered during any further discussions/planning meetings. Thank you for your thoughtful and insightful comments.
- we are in communication with the Local Education Authority, DfE and unions in the attempt to establish clear guidance regarding a range of issues.
- we are regularly reviewing our school site and establishing ways in which we can improve health and safety further in response to the COVID19 situation and the request to increase pupil numbers.

Although not determined as yet, provision for the remainder of the Summer Term will certainly not be on a normal basis; children will need to be split into smaller groups, separated from the rest of their year group, and taught by a member of staff



who may not have been their usual teacher before lockdown. The curriculum will also be very different to avoid where possible the sharing of resources and mixing of children, and the timetable of the school day will need to be adapted as well, including drop-off and collection arrangements - there is a lot to consider.

Next week I will talk with other Head Teachers, seek advice from the Local Authority and work with the school leadership team to create a plan for a potential opening of George Dixon Primary School, alongside our Governing Body.

I will then share with you the reality and the provision that we can actually offer. It will then be respectfully left to you as parents to consider this and make appropriate decisions for your child and your family. There will be no consequences for families who choose for their children to remain at home during the remainder of the Summer Term, and I will of course respect the decision that you make.

I want to see a return to 'normal life' as much as anyone, and I can't wait to stand at the gates and welcome back the children we have all missed so much, but I won't do so until it is safe to do so. As much as I would enjoy having our school 'back to normal' - full of wonderful, lively pupils and hardworking staff, the reality is that the final term will not be school has we know it!

I assure you I will be back in touch soon. As always, please stay safe. Keep in touch via our website or the school email (enquiry@georgedixonprimary.bham.sch.uk)

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SHOOD". The letters are stylized and slanted to the right.

Mrs Good
Head Teacher