



Working together to make the world a better place starting at Pentlands.



Thornhill Lees CE
(VC) I & N



Savile Town CE (C)
I & N

13th May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following Sunday night's announcement by the Prime Minister, we thought it would be useful to update you on a few important issues. Sunday night's message began to set out a roadmap for the government's pathway to ease out of lockdown, one strand of which is to start to **consider possibly re-opening** schools from the beginning of June, if it is deemed safe to do so at that time.

We remain in the midst of a national emergency. The **strong advice still remains: stay at home if you can**. Please follow the guidance. Continue to take every measure you can to protect yourselves and your loved ones from any potential risk of exposure to the virus.

We need to stress that, as school leaders, we do not find out any information before the rest of the general public and began only late on Monday to receive some guidance documents as to how this might be put into practice. There are a great many considerations to be made in order to plan for any re-opening of school to ensure it is done safely and securely and our position remains the same as always - the health and safety of all our children, staff and families is our first priority. This will take some time. We need to ensure that we take decisions that have the best interests of our school communities at the heart of them, taking in account our local context.

Currently, our schools remain open **only** to the children of key workers and vulnerable children. This will not change until the government has their next review and decides whether the next step of the lockdown plan can be activated.

From 1st June **there is a possibility** that children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 may be able to come back to school, but this will be a staggered approach and may well mean that children cannot come into school immediately or indeed every day.

While the Prime Minister did mention these particular year groups as priorities for reintroduction to school, the practical challenges in managing this are substantial. When schools do begin the process of reintroducing more children into them, there will need to be clear protocols of how some kind of social distancing can apply; this will be difficult to put into place, especially where such young children are involved. This will necessarily limit the number of pupils that we can take into the building at any one time. We also need to ensure that there are robust and sufficient hygiene measures in place to ensure everyone is safeguarded as far as possible. School life, like many other aspects of our lives, will not immediately return to 'normal;' but we will do what is possible to make it as supportive of the children in our care as we can.

School staff have been working hard over the last few weeks and will continue to do so, now that we possibly move to beginning to re-open schools. However, onsite provision at school

also necessarily relies on there being sufficient staff in place to care for the children; this may vary over time and will be a different picture for each school, as staff may have to isolate, become unwell themselves or be shielding due to vulnerable conditions.

The re-opening of our schools is ultimately a decision for each Governing Body. Each school's staff team and governing body will be working to shape decisions over how and when we can re-open safely over the coming weeks. Please do not be worried. We will keep you informed of developments as they happen and in good time. Until then, please assume that there is no change in arrangements as they currently stand. At the point that the gradual reintroduction of pupils begins, you will have the choice as to whether you send your child back to school at this point and we will work with you to ensure that you access what you feel is safe for your child and appropriate for members of your own family/household.

Our very best wishes for the health and well-being of you and your families.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Coates-Mohammed

Mrs D Douglas

Mrs L Brown

Headteacher

Headteacher

Headteacher

Pentland Infant and Nursery

Savile Town CE (C) I & N

Headfield Junior CE (C)

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