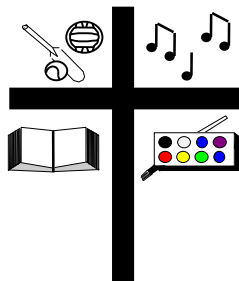


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we **A**chieve, we **B**elieve, we **C**are

20th May 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you are well and safe.

On behalf of Mrs Harris, Governors and staff, I wish to update you on the current situation regarding the re-opening of schools to key worker and wider pupils.

We are sure you appreciate that we are working in a situation that is totally new for us all. It is also one that has been and is changing daily. Every day new guidance arrives and the timescale for planning and how we can implement it in our school gets shorter and shorter.

Our priority is, first and foremost the welfare and safety of your children and the adults, in school who care for and educate them. Evidence suggests children are relatively less affected by coronavirus than adults, although there is, as yet, not much data on children and very few have been tested. However, as a school, we not only have a duty of care to children, but also to all the adults working in school and without whom caring and providing for children's welfare or education is not possible.

This is why you have not yet have received a detailed plan from our school with dates and times. As much as you, we want to know exactly what things will look like from 1st June. Each school is different in what they can offer. Announcing prematurely that we are open from 1st June and then having to pull back because it won't be possible or not safe enough is no help at all to families.

At this moment in time the provisional plan (which may be subject to change) at Crowton, is that our school will reopen to **current keyworker pupils** that have been on site during lockdown on **Wednesday 3rd June**, with a view to a potential wider opening to some selected year groups the week beginning 8th June – details of which (if it is possible) will be sent to you nearer the time. Please note that this is subject to any new advice and any change in circumstances and in this event we will update you accordingly.

Should you need to contact us urgently before then, please email your child's teacher, or admin@crowton.cheshire.sch.uk.

We are not reopening the school that closed on 20th March. We are reopening limited educational provision with around half size classes; the use of the building and mixing of people in it having to be far more controlled and adults as well as children will all be learning very new ways of being together. Together but apart. Schools' vision and ethos will continue, but many of the practical arrangements and cultural ways will have to be very different for us all. Only then can we and you, children's parents and carers at home, be confident that we are safe enough to reopen because we have planned thoroughly and made our very best endeavours to reduce the risk as much as we can. Further information will be provided in due course before any wider opening.

Unlike the shops and garden centres schools are being compared to in the media, schools are unique in being asked to open to the public without social distancing. One thing the government, DfE, and Local Authority all do seem to agree on is that total social distancing is not possible in school. This is why we have been asked to work in small 'bubbles' of under 15 pupils and keep the groups separate during their time in school.

We understand that you will be anxious yourselves about your child returning to school. Others will be equally anxious about their children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 (who are just as dear to us) and what this means for them.

We would like to be able to give you a clear, detailed plan so you know exactly what things will look like after 1st June. But we can't right now. We need time to develop and formalise the plans and risk assessments that we have been working on for a good while. Staff need time so they can implement the changes with competence and confidence. We need to ensure our planning and provision will make us safe enough for everyone to return to: children and the adults who care for them.

With our best wishes, and prayers, we look forward to communicating more fully in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tracy Bramwell
Senior Teacher

