



Christ Church CEP Academy Folkestone

Brockman Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1DJ

Tel: 01303 253645 Fax: 01303 226029

E-mail: headteacher@christ-church-folkestone.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.christchurchfolkestone.com

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks to those of you who completed the parental survey last week about pupils returning to school. Your views form an important part of the process we have undertaken to ensure - as best we can - that those children who do return to school are in the safest environment possible (to the best of our knowledge), albeit in a pandemic that remains elusive to fully comprehend.

Governors met yesterday and agreed the proposal as outlined below:

Our Academy does not intend to reopen on the 1st of June 2020 for only reception, year 1 and 6 pupils as per Government guidelines as this would discriminate against many pupils in need (in other year groups) within our school. We are thereby proposing that the following alternative scenario will be enacted from the 8th of June (at the earliest) until the end of the 2019/2020 school year *along with the proviso, that this wider reopening of the academy will be subject to change, if the safety and well-being of all concerned is deemed to be compromised in any way - this being determined by the science, not the politics.*

Christ Church CEP Academy will reopen at the earliest date possible (not before 8th June) in order to provide an education to those most in need within our school community - children of key workers, vulnerable pupils, pupils of working parents who feel they have no choice but to send their child back to school, and any individual who would benefit from this provision when it is deemed that the gain to the pupil outweighs the risk. This applies to all pupils currently on roll from Reception to Year 6.

The academy will ensure that social distancing along with all health issues are rigorously maintained, except in special circumstances when it is deemed appropriate by the class teacher to ensure the wellbeing of the child. This wider reopening will necessitate a reduction in class size - to be no more than 8 pupils at any time - and dependent upon space available as well as appropriate staffing. A staggered timetable will be established for all year groups. The health and wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff remains the highest priority and any and all actions

will be taken promptly to uphold this priority. This provision will be consistently reviewed, taking into account any change of circumstances.

So what precisely does this mean?

- We do not encourage children to return to school if they are doing well and/or coping with home learning and local arrangements. I (or no one else) is in a position to state categorically "that all is well". It certainly is not, nothing is well while we are living with Covid 19.
- We acknowledge that many of our children, would, regardless of the circumstances benefit from attending school for some part of the week, perhaps 2 or 3 days maximum (this being dependent upon our capacity to provide adequate space on site as well as sufficient staffing - still in the planning stages as I write).
- Routines will change - classes will be significantly reduced - and each year groups will be given a time to arrive at school and depart - as well as the number of parents/carers who are permitted to "drop off and pick up" - at the entry and exit areas for the site.
- Each teaching group will be kept separate from each other at all times to avoid (if possible) cross contamination.
- Any reported cases of anyone infected with Covid 19 will necessitate a prompt response and measures taken, eg testing, tracking and isolation will apply to all members of the teaching group; pupils and staff alike.

These are just a few of the ways (there are a significant number of changes that have arisen) in which the "new normal" will look like in the weeks, and perhaps months ahead.

You will be contacted by a member of the leadership team (Mrs Cook, Mrs Hogben, Miss Perkins or Mr Flack) in the days ahead to ascertain the possibility of your child's return to school. **I repeat, if your child is coping well during this lockdown, I recommend they continue with their home learning arrangements until science indicates it is safer to return to school.**

I will be in school all of next week so, if unsure about what to do, please contact the school office so we can have a confidential conversation about the future in this time of great uncertainty.

Take care of yourself and one another.



Mr Jim Kreiselmeier
Head Teacher

