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Drifffield Northfield Infant School  
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**'All Moving Forward  
Together'**

16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank you all for the patience and support you have all shown this week since the Prime Ministers announcement on Sunday evening. Like us, I am sure you are finding this a very difficult and unsettling time. As a team we want nothing more than to open up our lovely school again and we are working hard to put a plan in place to ensure this can happen as soon as it is safe to do so.

Before we are able to provide you with an absolute plan of what a phased re-opening will look like, there are a few things that I need to clarify with you and also gather some information from you which will be helpful in developing the plan.

First of all in the Prime Ministers announcement it was suggested that re-opening would begin with children in Reception and Year 1. However I must let you know that on receiving further guidance on Monday it makes it clear that infant schools should begin to consider a plan to re-open for the youngest children's year groups first. This of course for us would mean inviting our Foundation Stage children in first, along with those eligible for the original government offer of childcare, including those of keyworkers, those with an EHCP or families supported by a Social Worker. We are yet to finalise the plan of what this will look like, as there is further information to gather, which impacts on the way we do this, but essentially children being allocated a group of no more than 15 children with a teacher and teaching assistant working in one of our six classrooms. This group would then stay together throughout the day for lessons and activities, playtimes and lunch. For safety and to reduce contact with lots of other people, the groups of children would not mix at any point and staggered start and finish times would be allocated to reduce the number of families making contact at drop off and pick up times. Strict social distancing will be in place in and around the school and every effort will be made to ensure children also adhere to these measures; however I'm sure you will appreciate this will be extremely difficult with young children. Further stringent hygiene, cleaning and handwashing measures will be also be introduced.

I completely understand that this probably doesn't answer all of your questions and I am keen to provide you with further information once the plan is developed completely. Therefore, to finalise a plan, I would like to request some information from you. If the time comes that we are in a position to re-open the school for more children, you as a parent/carer are entitled to make the decision as to whether your child attends. We fully understand there are many reasons why you may choose not to, including keeping them home because they or someone in your household is vulnerable and must be shielded, you may feel it is too soon and would like more time to see how things change since the lockdown restrictions were eased before

making that decision. You may need to send your child in due to work commitments. Of course we want to see children back in school but at the moment the decision lies with you, we will support you in whatever you decide and no fines will be issued at this time if you do keep them at home. We will also endeavour to continue providing home learning opportunities to support your child.

**To gain an understanding of the number of children who could possibly be returning in each year group (Reception first, with the possibility of other year groups as the term moves on), I would ask you all to complete the short survey that has been posted on the Home page of our school website, [www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk](http://www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk), simply giving an indication as to whether your children would return if their class were to re-open, would not return this term or that you are undecided at this time. This survey also asks if you are an eligible keyworker and might require a childcare place over the coming half term. This will be very important as the number of children intending to return will impact on how we implement our plan.**

Thank you once again and I would be very grateful if the survey could be completed and submitted by **1pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**. I know you will still have many questions, which hopefully I will be able to answer over the coming week, but please rest assured that anything we do put in place will be the very best we can to ensure the safety of your children, family, the staff and wider community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sam Woolhouse  
Headteacher



[www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk](http://www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk)