



WOOKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
And Little Acorns Playgroup
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday and read the reports in the media since about the plans for admitting more children into primary schools from June 1st. You may have even read the extremely lengthy documents which have been published by the government in the past 24 hours which detail how they hope that their "ambition" for schools will be achieved.

It is important to reiterate here that in the short-term, nothing has changed for our school and to reassure you I will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once I am able to do so. Whilst all of us want to get more pupils back into school, our first priority has to be the safety of everyone in our school community and recent developments have raised many issues that will need addressing.

You will be aware that we have remained open since the crisis began to support vulnerable children and those of critical workers. The numbers in school have increased in the last two weeks, but remain low. For all of those coming on to the school site, we have been attempting to ensure that all possible measures are in place to protect the safety of students and staff. That includes keeping students 2 metres apart in classrooms, hand washing regimes and frequent cleaning throughout the day.

This provision has helped us to model what may come next. However, it is clear that those rules are even harder to follow and enforce when children engage in the type of play, and play based learning, that is central to their social development, and that having increased numbers of children in school will further complicate the issue.

So, before we begin to increase the number of children in school above current levels we will need to consider a great number of factors including:

- the maximum number that can safely be taught in any classroom
- the implications of the size and configuration of our school site
- the number of staff members that we have available
- the timings of the school day and how they may change to ensure the safety of everyone.

As I have already stated, maintaining the safety of the school community will be the first priority in every case.



We know that it will not be possible in the short term to restore a normal timetable at school. Therefore, I will write to you next week with some details in terms of the provision we might be able to offer in June, should the government feel that the conditions to make it safe have been met. This will give all our parents as much time as possible to reflect on and respond to any plans we have put in place.

In the meantime, it is 'business as usual'. I am immensely proud of the response that our community has had to what has been an incredibly challenging few weeks and the way that we have maintained a measure of normality in the lives of the children who attend Wookey School. I need to acknowledge that this would not have been possible without:

- Our teachers, who are working really hard to ensure that the home learning we are setting is of the highest possible standard and that the children are able to feel as much of a connection as possible with them on a daily basis.
- Our support staff, who are going above and beyond the call of duty in managing the day to day maintenance of the school and the extremely large amount of administration that this situation is generating.
- Our children, who are continuing to show our school values of engagement, respect, independence and active learning in their work on Seesaw
- and finally our parents as our idea for home learning would not have been possible without your support and hard work.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Marsh
Headteacher

