

The Chiltern School

Headteacher update – 13.05.20

Dear Parents and guardians,

I am sure you all watched the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1 June. For mainstream schools starting with pupils in reception, year one and year six. For special schools, the guidance suggests we move towards a phased return of more children without a focus on specific year groups and that we prioritise those who are at a point of key transition.

I, like all headteachers, want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. Teachers have devoted their lives and careers to the care and education of young people, we do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be. We know that as parents you are at the end of your tether, it is hard work juggling the many demands that are currently present in our lives. We know too, children need to be with their peers, they want to be back at school.

As any school leader will tell you, the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community. The government has told us that their decisions are being led by scientific evidence. We can reduce the risk, we can make things safer by reducing numbers, wearing PPE and trying to support social distance. However, if we get it wrong, the ultimate outcome, is the loss of life, our school community is too precious for us to be hasty and this is a risk we are not prepared to take without a reasoned, well thought out plan.

Therefore, over the next week, we will work with our staff, school governors and the local authority to map out a way forward but at this moment in time, I cannot give you precise details of what this will look like. What we do know, is that we will continue to offer provision for our critical workers and those deemed most vulnerable as we have been doing since the start of the lockdown. We will also continue to engage with you daily using a variety of different methods as appropriate to you and your family. We will also look at offering more families the opportunity to access outdoor space should this be appropriate.

When we have more to share we will do this in a timely fashion and liaise with all the appropriate agencies. If you have any thoughts, as always, please feel free to share them with us.

In the meantime, thank you for your patience and support and I hope you are all safe and well.

Best wishes,

[Lisa](#)

**Lisa Leonard
Headteacher**