



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU
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Headteacher: Mrs Susanne Dove B. Ed (Hons), NPQH

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Dear Parents,

I'm sure you will have heard the Prime Minister share with the nation the Government's evaluation as to where we are in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic. Clearly, it is good news that we are allowed outside a little more, but still little detail was shared as to how and when schools will be opened further to more pupils. The Prime Minister's suggestion of opening to children in Reception and Year 1 is highly ambitious and will present Lower Schools with tremendous challenges.

However, we recognise that this has been a difficult time for children and their families and we are greatly looking forward to children returning to school when this can happen safely. We are considering Government guidance, as it is released, and will be matching it to our own assessment of risk. Please be assured that, when we know more about how this could happen, we will communicate with you as soon as we can.

Whilst the promised guidance has provided some clarity around a number of outstanding issues such as a safe occupancy for a typical classroom, what adjustments will need to be made to the school day, the impact on timetabling and curriculum, how many children will be allowed in school at any one time, how we are to support them once they are here and how social distancing will be encouraged; we have to realistically assess how we can put this into place at Heathwood.

We are working closely with all schools in Leighton and Linslade to provide a consistent approach and I am anticipating that we will be supported with our modelling by Central Bedfordshire Council. This includes encouraging schools to consider how to create a more sterile environment, the introduction of external one way systems, temporary adjustments to the school day and curriculum, and many other important considerations. There is no doubt that when your children return, their experience will look and feel very different.

When we know more, we will ask for your support in preparing your children for what this new approach to schooling will mean for them. Every aspect of school life will be evaluated in the context of Public Health as we aim to minimise risk to our children, their families and our staff. This is a huge undertaking, but I fully understand that this is a journey we will be making together. We give you an assurance that we will continue to update you at each step of the way so that you too can make plans for your own family's transition towards a time when our lives are fully adapted to the new world in which we find ourselves. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Susanne Dove
Head Teacher

