



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU

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18 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, throughout the current crisis, we have tried to maintain communication and keep you informed and connected with our school as each new development arises.

We are committed to children returning to school as soon as it is safe to do so, in ways that we can be certain will protect them, their families and our staff to the very best of our understanding. This is an extremely complex task and involves us assessing the risk of every aspect in a detailed and prudent way. At the same time we are looking at data around the virus itself, and advice we are being given to allow us to make informed, evidence based judgements. We recognise that this has been a particularly difficult time for some children and their families, our priorities remain unchanged - to protect the people, old and young, to whom we have a duty of care and to establish, through whatever means are at our disposal, an environment in which our children can thrive.

Within our constraints of the size of the school building and it's layout, and the staffing that we have available to us who are not clinically vulnerable, we are constructing a plan that aims to bring the **Key Worker and EHCP/Vulnerable group of children back to school in a safe and manageable way on 1st June from 9am-3pm.**

This group has expanded in size due to the new Government guidelines and requirements for people to get back to work. In order to keep children and staff safe we are aiming to:

- Keep family groups together (except Pre-School children who will return to their own environment)
- Maintain age appropriate learning by considering groupings
- Keep groups sizes to a maximum of 10
- Maintain consistency of staff with each group of children
- Allocate outside space to each group

Once we have established that we can, to the best of our ability, open safely for this larger group of children, we will be sharing with you our plans to bring back Classes R and 1 (who have expressed an interest in returning) on a part time basis. We are unable to offer any more Pre-School places as we are at full capacity providing places for Key Worker Pre-School children.

We are anticipating that the plan for Classes R and 1 who have requested a place in principle, will be groups of no more than 10 children with the same 2 members of staff for 2 days a week. This will enable us to meet the Government's requirements for an appropriate cleaning protocol.

We are greatly looking forward to children returning to school when this can happen in a way that is managed as safely as possible.

We look forward to seeing you all soon,

Mrs Susanne Dove
Head Teacher

