



Five Ways Primary School

Langholm Drive
Heath Hayes
Cannock
Staffs
WS12 2EZ

Headteacher:
Telephone:
Website:
Email:

Mrs Rachel Mander B.Ed. Hons
01543 278071
www.fiveways.staffs.sch.uk
admin@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Update – Preparations for wider opening of schools to more pupils from 1st June 2020

Last night I received advice from the Government on how schools should prepare for the potential wider opening of schools from the 1st June. The link is below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

I am led to believe that the Government will take the final decision on whether they will open on May 28th.

As the Headteacher of Five Ways, I do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be; however the safety of our children, staff and families must be my prime responsibility when making any decisions.

It would be most helpful if parents who have children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 could indicate their initial response regarding sending your child in to school so I can gain a rough idea of numbers to support with plans for staffing. I understand that this information is all new and that you will need to consider work and other children that you may have in school not in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6. It is totally reasonable that some parents may have concerns over sending their child/ren back to school at this difficult time. This is a decision that parents will need to make themselves, as every family will have their own unique circumstances. Can I reassure you that The Government has given assurances that parents **will not** be fined for their child/ren's non-attendance at school during this time.

Please can you email returertoschool@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk with your initial thoughts / intentions regarding your child returning to school after half term. You just need to indicate **'Yes, my child will be attending school'** or **'No, my child will not be attending school'**. **Please also state clearly your child's name and surname, their year group and the name of your child's classteacher.** Please can you provide this information by Friday 15th May.

Please note: Children of key workers **who are not** in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 will all still be able to attend 'childcare' at school.

Having studied The Government guidance in detail and considering the implications for all, our current plans will mean that it will be necessary to have staggered starts and finishes to the



school day. Parents will not be able to gather at gates or doors and only one parent or carer can escort their child to the appropriate school entrance.

Classes will be split and children will be taught in groups of no more than 15 pupils. One teacher or member of staff will be allocated to a group of children – please note this may not be your child's usual classteacher. It is important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve this and reduce transmissions risks by ensuring that the children only mix in their small consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Gatherings such as sports day, class assemblies, end of year performances will sadly not be possible.

As the government has made clear in the protective measures guidance, 'Unlike older children and adults, early years and primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff'. However, please be assured that we will do our best to maintain the safety of all through minimising contact and mixing, encouraging frequent handwashing, avoiding anyone with symptoms, ventilating all rooms and using the outdoors as much as possible.

Once pupil numbers and staffing has been confirmed we will be able to issue more information about how we will accommodate Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and also how home learning for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will evolve. However, as previously stated, I want to reassure you that any decision for the wider re-opening of Five Ways would be taken with the utmost consideration of the safety for our children, staff and families. The Senior Leadership Team along with the Governing Body will continue to meet regularly before 1st June, to discuss ways to keep our school community safe when school is required to re-open. The Chair of Governors, Mr Les Bullock, has stressed that he is hugely aware of his responsibility and duty of care to all members of the school community, when preparing for the gradual re-opening of Five Ways, following the half term break and will not compromise the Health and Safety of any of our children, staff and families.

Once again, in these unprecedented times, I thank you for your support. As more guidance is emerging, I will continue to provide you with further details.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

