



Five Ways Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Preparation for re-opening school to Year 6 pupils from 8th June 2020

As you are aware from my previous letter, it was our intention to reopen school for pupils in Year 6 from 8th June.

However, The Government have always made it clear that schools should continue to prioritise, over all other year groups, the need to continue to be open for:

- **Children of key workers**
- **Vulnerable pupils: those with an EHCP, with a Social Worker, or those with vulnerability to whom the school have decided to offer a childcare place.**

Since my previous letter and since The Government have begun to ease lockdown restrictions, I regret to inform you that we have received communication from a huge amount of parents across the school, requesting a place for their child as they are categorised as a key worker and are required to attend work. Following the guidance set out by The Government, I have to provide a school place to the children of key worker parents. For this reason, and due to the increased numbers of key worker pupils, I have been left with no other option than to reallocate some of the staff who were going to be used to care for your child in Year 6.

I can appreciate that this update is terribly frustrating for parents of Year 6 children and I am fully aware of the impact this will have upon your family and work commitments. However, as a school we are still determined to provide some level of support to Year 6 parents and children. With this in mind, I am writing to inform you that currently, we can no longer offer Year 6 children a place in school every day from 8th June until the end of term like initially stated. However, we are committed to your children and have adapted our plans so that half of the children wishing to attend school in Year 6 can do so for 1 week from 8th June, Monday to Friday. Following that, the other half of the Year 6 cohort wishing to attend will be accommodated during the week commencing 15th June, Monday to Friday. This will be alternated with a 1 week in and a 1 week out rota system being operated until further notice.

As a school, we are disappointed that we have been left with no other option than to adapt our plans, and I would like to apologise that we are not able to accommodate all of our Year 6 children wishing to attend in the way we had hoped to. In addition, I feel it is vital for me to give you advanced warning and stress that if additional key worker parents continue to keep requesting a place for their children, then it is likely that the adapted plan outlined above may need to be adapted further. If this happens, it is most likely that I will be writing to you by Thursday of this week to explain that we no longer have staff available to care for your Year 6



child. This will be because our key worker children numbers will have increased so much and all staff will be required to care for those children that we are instructed to prioritise.

For this reason, I wanted to give you as much advanced notice as possible to begin considering alternative arrangements for your Year 6 child, in case they are unable to attend school at all from 8th June or 15th June.

I will write to you again on Thursday 11th June with a further update outlining the provision we are able to offer. If we have enough staff and we can accommodate half of the year 6 cohort during week commencing 8th June and half during 15th June, I will outline the specific details related to our organisation then. If there is not enough staff available to care for Year 6 children, I will inform you on Thursday that school will remain CLOSED for all Year 6 children until further notice. If in the meantime, you have changed your mind about your child attending school, because of the update you have received today, and the uncertainty ahead, then that is fine, just contact us via the school office as soon as possible, to say that your child will not be coming back into school as originally stated.

I would like to make it clear that we wholeheartedly support and understand the reasons why any parent may wish to keep their child at home for the rest of this academic year. I can confirm that there will be no judgement or penalty from us if your child stays at home as a result of the uncertainty that this latest update from me has caused. You would not be challenged and your child's absence would not trigger a fine. Everyone has to make choices that are the best for them and no one will be judged for making a decision that is right for their family at this time.

I understand that this update will cause further anxiety for families however, as stressed in all of my correspondence to you, the Governors at Five Ways and I, are hugely aware of our responsibilities and duty of care to all members of the school community. As stated previously, when making decisions concerning the gradual re-opening of Five Ways, we 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 patience and support. I will write to you again on Thursday 11th June with an update with further details, as we refine our procedures in preparation for next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

