

Friday May 15th Covid 19 - Lockdown easing and school re-opening?

Dear parents/carers,

As I am sure you are aware the government has announced a phased easing of the current lockdown measures and – depending on the data - they are asking some schools to partially re-open from June. The decision on whether to open or not rests with our Governing Body and they are meeting on Tuesday night to assess the situation. As part of that conversation I am writing to all families to see **IF** they want a school place should we re-open. I am also contacting our staff to check their availability to ensure we have enough staff in the event of our possible reopening.

To be clear all workplaces have an absolute legal duty to provide a safe and healthy working environment. If we are to re-open in the second half of the summer term we will have to create a **'Covid-Secure'** working environment. We would need to carry out a whole school **Risk Assessment** and also individual **Risk Assessments** so that the school can operate safely for everyone. **I would also like to stress that you have the option to keep your child at home if you prefer and you will not be 'chased'.**

As with so many pronouncements from the government I am not sure that they fully appreciate the complexity of schools like ours. Our pupils would struggle to understand the current **'Physical Distancing'** rules while many others have complex medical or care needs that require staff to literally be right by their side. 'Physical Distancing' for many would be impossible without some form of PPE – what would that look like? We also have many pupils (and staff) with ongoing medical conditions or personal circumstances that would require them to be 'shielded' and away from school until further notice.

We will be telephoning each of you to get your views on whether you want to send your child to school with the control measures we have in place. In the event of a decision to reopen we are likely to limit the number of pupils and staff in school and – depending on the demand for spaces – may have to draw up a rota to make sure everyone gets fair and equal access. Maybe one week on and one week off? We will contact Transport when we get to that point and they should then contact you with whatever arrangements they put in place. **Class teachers will be calling you to find out your views.**

If our Governors decide to keep the school closed we will let you know immediately and the current arrangements will be in place until further notice.

If you have any pressing questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch and call me on 07804039804 – 'Office Hours' only please. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay safe.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Carroll