



ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHELYNCH PARK, DOULTING, SHEPTON MALLETT, SOMERSET, BA4 4PL

Tel: (01749) 880376

www.staldhelms.co.uk

staldhelmsoffice@educ.somerset.gov.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you how we are progressing in relation to the government's request for schools to plan towards a possible return to school for some year groups on 1st June.

Guidance has been received from the Department for Education but we continue to have some questions and concerns to be addressed. As indicated in the letter attached from Julian Wooster, the Director of Children's Services, it is indicated that the position of schools and the provision that they can offer will differ according to a range of factors.

Currently, with the government guidance stating that children must be taught in groups of no more than 15, I am unable to confirm whether we will be able to reopen for all Reception, Y1 and Y6 pupils alongside the pupils who have had continued provision throughout the period of 'school closure'. There is no timescale indicated for the requirement of group sizes to remain at 15 and for as long as this requirement is in place we may not be able to provide for any other pupils.

Everything is still resting on the government having the evidence that the 'five tests' have been met prior to any decision being confirmed that additional children can return on 1st June. I have been informed today that this decision will not be made until 28th May.

Therefore, we are still very much at the planning stage. As things stand, we are considering reopening for the year groups mentioned but I'm sure you can appreciate that there are still many factors to consider. If risks and concerns cannot be addressed, the decision may be taken to not increase numbers of pupils in school.

You may feel that this letter doesn't answer all of your questions yet and doesn't help you to plan ahead but please continue to be patient whilst I receive answers and information that enables the school leadership team to make a firm plan which can be shared with you.

I anticipate being in contact next week with as much information as possible. Until that time please continue to contact us if you need any advice or support. We continue to miss all of the children and their families and look forward to the day when we can all return to school.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Pippa Cohen

Headteacher

St Aldhelm's VA Church Primary School | Chelynch Park | Doultong | BA4 4PL

01749 880376

staldhelmshead@educ.somerset.gov.uk