



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

Tel: (01749) 880376

[www.staldhelms.co.uk](http://www.staldhelms.co.uk)

[staldhelmsoffice@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:staldhelmsoffice@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As promised, I am writing to update you on how we are progressing with our plan towards a possible return to school for some year groups on 1st June.

With the information we have received so far and with the government guidance stating that children must be taught in groups of no more than 15, I am able to confirm that we plan to **reopen for all Reception and Y1 children alongside the key worker and vulnerable children**, who have had continued provision throughout the period of 'school closure'. Unfortunately, we do not have the space and capacity to reopen for Y6 children at this time. Nor can we drastically increase the provision for our key worker children group yet so will only continue with those families already registered with us (more details will follow on this). The government have been clear that the priority order is YR and Y1, before Y6, as children in YR and Y1 need to reintegrate for their social and emotional development. Whilst we may not be able to provide for Y6 at this time, we will be looking to organise something before the end of the term and more details will follow. I know that the secondary schools are in touch with us about transition and are beginning to write to Y6 children and parents about their plans for transition.

With this plan in mind, I will be sending out a Parent Survey for all parents and carers with children in YR and Y1. This will be for you to feedback your views and plans on reopening and whether or not you plan to send your child back to school. I would appreciate this being turned round quickly as I know you will want information about starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June as soon as possible. Without your feedback, I will be unable to finalise any provisional plans we have been making so far. Please enter and provide the personal details we will need to plan, this includes your child's name and year group. If you make the survey anonymous, I cannot use the information to plan the children's groupings and staff ratios. I ask that this is returned by **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 9am** at the latest. Please look out for the survey email and thank you in advance for completing it.

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. As we know this decision will not be made until 28th May. If risks and concerns cannot be addressed, the decision may be taken to not increase numbers of pupils in school.

We will continue to plan and prepare for reopening the school for those children identified above. We will ensure that our measures for risk assessing and health and safety recommendations are in place, to do absolutely everything asked of us for a safe return. We will create a plan that will allow children to return to their primary school experience, and will consider the most useful and important skills to focus on for their social, emotional and academic development.

Thank you all for your understanding and patience at this time. I do sincerely appreciate the kind words in emails and phone-calls that show you recognise the challenges this is placing on staff and schools. However, as always, we continue to do our very best to support and provide for you and your children.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

*Pippa Cohen*

Headteacher

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

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