

# The Topsham School

A love of learning and commitment to the success of every child at the heart of all we do



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Every member of staff at The Topsham School has been doing a fantastic job in providing online learning for all pupils and on-site provision for children of critical workers and those who are vulnerable. I know you will all join me in thanking the team for the care and dedication they have shown towards you and your children under incredibly difficult circumstances. I would also like to express my thanks to you, our parents and carers, for the encouragement and support you have given us during this challenging time. We have received so many kind words and thanks for the amazing work our front-line staff have been doing and we will continue to work tirelessly to provide the best possible education for your children under very challenging circumstances.

On Sunday, the Prime Minister said that he wanted schools to begin phasing children back into school from June 1<sup>st</sup>, starting with **Nursery, Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6** pupils. We are using the guidance set out by the government to put plans in place for what a return to school might look like. This will be based on the number of staff available, the number of pupils already in and then the practical aspects of the school building. Our most key priority is ensuring that our school is as safe as we can make it, to open with enough staff to support the pupils onsite. **This may not mean a return for pupils on 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

**To help with this initial planning, if you have a child in Nursery, Year R, Year 1 or Year 6** please can you complete the attached form and send it to [jadesina@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:jadesina@topsham.devon.sch.uk) by 12 noon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. If you do not complete and return this form, it will be assumed you **do not** wish your child to attend school, should phased reopening begin on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

The current guidelines encourage parents to send their children back to school, but they also make it clear, that there will be no fines or penalties imposed on families, should they decide to keep their children at home for this current phase of reopening. The Topsham School will respect the decisions you make, as we understand that each family will need to weigh up what is best for their children and individual circumstances.

Once we have an idea of the scale of demand, I will work with the leadership team, in consultation with our governing body, to put together a proposed operating plan, which adheres to the government guidance. Each school's setting is different and if the small groups required to



keep children safe cannot be achieved, we will prioritise to firstly continue to provide places for key worker and vulnerable groups, followed by Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year 6 in that order.

**I do need to be clear, that both the situation and guidance are constantly developing and our priority is to do everything possible to keep our children safe. This means that there may be changes as we receive further information, which may mean a return for pupils on 1<sup>st</sup> June is not possible to achieve.**

As the Prime Minister stated, containing the virus has required huge sacrifice, and we know that for many of our families this has caused no end of difficulties and challenge.

Supported by the local authority and governors, our team is making the best plans it possibly can in the circumstances.

Please complete the form and help us get a secure plan in place.

Following DCC guidance, parents are asked NOT to contact the school in regards to any phased opening. Headteachers will notify parents of the process their school will be following. In line with this guidance, the school will not respond to any parental correspondence in relation the school's phased opening at this time.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support.

Kind regards

Emma Pipe

Headteacher