**The Topsham School**

**A love of learning and commitment to the success of**

**every child at the heart of all we do**

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Pipe

Orchard Way

Topsham

Exeter

EX3 0DN

admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk

01392 874498

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**Possible reopening of schools**

Dear Parents/Carers

I know that families will have heard the Prime Minister’s address on Sunday 11th May in which he stated that:

*“****At the earliest****, by June 1 – after half term – we believe* ***we may******be in a position to begin the phased reopening*** *of shops and to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays.”*

Currently, schools will continue to offer places **only** to vulnerable children and those of key workers. Schools across the country, like parents, heard this news for the first time last night.

As the Headteacher, I want my children to return to school. However, my priority remains that safety of my children, my staff and the wider community. Any further reopening of schools is part of the government’s conditional plan, which it says will remain under regular review. In essence, this means that advice may change depending on how well it is supported by science.

Over the course of the next week or two, all schools will be reviewing the detailed guidance government has said it will provide. I will be doing this alongside my colleagues across Devon. I will then decide on the appropriate action that is required to open the school to the year groups identified in a safe way, and only if I have enough information that gives me confidence it is safe to do so. When I feel myself and the staff are in a position to do so I will provide further information to parents so they know exactly when the school will be able to offer a place for their child/children. This message is in line with DCC who state: “**In the meantime, it would be appreciated if parents could avoid contacting their school directly.”**

I would like to thank you for your much valued and continued support at this time.

Kind regards

Mrs Pipe