



Star Primary School
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Head Teacher: Ms L. Von Buchenroder

*Nurturing &
growing together*

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Update:

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding over the last two weeks. I know that you will be very keen to understand how we intend to go about bringing more children and staff back into school and how this will affect you.

As you can imagine it is a very complicated process to manage and of course we are all still watching the bigger national picture and waiting on SAGE announcements to see if the advice to open schools to more pupils from June 1st will be upheld.

What we have been working on is a plan to start bringing more children back into school as safely as possible, **when it is safe to do so**. I have to stress that this is a draft plan at this stage and that we are working through lots of technical issues to make sure it will work. It may change if Government Advice changes. I am well aware that increasing the amount of staff and children coming onto the site is risky and has to be done in a slow and measured way.

What we are proposing to do at this moment in time is follow the following timeframe:

- **Week beginning 1st June** – Slowly start increasing the numbers of staff on site. Over the week staff will be placed into bubbles (very small teams) and come in on different days so that we can test the new arrangements in place and make sure it works.
- **Week beginning 8th June** – Reception children will be invited back into school as well as any children who are currently registered with Sherpa Kids. We know that working parents who use Sherpa Kids will need to be returning to work and we want to make it a priority to support them. Sherpa will also restart during that week for parents who need the extended hours, and this can be booked directly with them. We will also continue to provide for the children of keyworkers and other identified groups. Children will be grouped into small class sizes (bubbles) and be allocated specific rooms and play areas. This will look very different from what they are used to.
- **Week beginning 15th June** – Year 6 children will be invited to return to school. They will be placed into bubbles and be spread across 8 different rooms on the top floor.

During this time, we will be able to assess how the plan is working and if it is safe to do so, we will start to plan for Year 1 children to return. We will follow government guidance at all times, and also work around our own buildings and health and safety limitations. Crucial to the plan working is having enough staff available to cover all rooms and support all bubbles. **This timescale is likely to change but we will keep the same format even if the dates do change.**

We will be sending you a child friendly explanation for you to go through with your child, which will help prepare them for the changes and explain some of the new arrangements.





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I know that many parents will want to continue keeping their children at home and that is down to each individual circumstance. Home learning will continue to be set and it will be the same work for those children who are invited back into schools. What we do need to know is numbers so that we can continue to plan carefully. Reception and Sherpa Kids families will receive a Parentmail form, please complete and submit as soon as possible. This will be followed by forms for Y6 parents.

Although the school remains open next week, we will not be setting home learning work or running the admin helpdesk as it is half term. Teachers have suggested a wellbeing timetable which will be loaded onto the school website. I know that the weather is set to be good, but I do urge you to be very careful when going out to parks and public spaces. Make sure you are able to observe social distancing and supervise your children at all time. We cannot afford to be complacent at this time. **The bank holiday doesn't mean we should not follow the same regulations.**

This week was thank a teacher week. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work during this time. I was passed the very special video made by Gehvan in Year 2, to thank his teacher. Gehvan, if your mum reads this to you, please know that Ms Von is so proud of your work and that we miss you very much too!

Finally, I would like to wish all our families celebrating Eid this weekend, a peaceful and safe celebration.

Best wishes (sorry for such a long update)
Ms Von

