

Benwick Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and staying safe.

I promised to update you as the planning around possibly re-opening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from 1st June evolves. It takes much longer to plan to re-open a school safely than it does to close and the guidance we receive changes on a daily basis. We are unable to make any absolute decisions at this point as we undertake a very lengthy risk assessment, however I want to share some information with you, and as there is a lot of it, will do so in bullet points to aide reading:

- School will not be open to any groups over the half-term holiday - Flutterbies is planning on opening - contact them if you have care requirements
- Parents of Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 will be called individually next week to find out if they wish their child to attend school
- If children who are currently receiving free school meal vouchers attend school they will receive a meal and no longer receive a voucher, if they do not attend school they will still receive vouchers
- It has been acknowledged by the government that full social distancing is impossible in schools – we will take measures to keep everyone apart as much as possible
- From 1st June there will be changes to the school day, arrival and departure times, class structures, activities, staffing, playtimes, lunchtimes etc to keep groups apart- this will be communicated to you before 1st June
- We are in the process of stripping all classrooms of soft furnishing, unnecessary furniture and equipment to keep rooms as basic as possible and limited resources that are not shared by children are being prepared, all desk are separated with one child expected to sit at a desk (not Reception)
- We have been told the Government will not make any final decisions regarding limited Year groups returning on 1st June until the very end of May.
- Key Workers – children must be booked in ahead of time due to planning for safe numbers and no child should arrive at school without first having been booked in.

I have attached a guide to the return to school which explains some of the reasoning and changes, you may wish to share this with your child, particularly if they are in one of the groups returning. I know you will have many more questions and I hope that I will be able to answer those in due course. In the meantime, thank you all for the fantastic job you have been doing at home, we are so grateful for your support.

Have a lovely weekend,

Clare Talbot

Headteacher