29th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

The Government has now confirmed that schools can begin to reopen from next week. We are really looking forward to seeing our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children back at school from 3rd June 2020.

We are going to reopen school gradually as follows;

Dates
June 1 – teacher training – key worker and vulnerable children in community class
June 2 – teacher training – key worker and vulnerable children in community class
June 3 – key worker and vulnerable children in community class and children from Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 6

We have done a great deal of detailed work to put in place all of the measures needed to make school as safe as it can be for our pupils and staff. Classes will have no more than 15 children and each class will not mix with any other groups; each class will have an assigned teacher/s. The time children arrive and leave school will be staggered and lunch and bathroom breaks will be organised to prevent children mixing with others from outside their group.

The specific details for each group are included in the pages that accompany this letter*(see links on website).

The strict arrangements to ensure everyone stays safe are based on the numbers of children we know are going to attend. If you have not already advised us that you will be sending your child to school, unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate them until 8th June 2020. If you do now want to send your child to school, please contact info@arkdickensprimary.org, and if/when a place becomes available, we will let you know.

We all have a role to play to stop the spread of infection and we must all continue to follow the NHS guidance. If any student has symptoms of Coronavirus, however mild, they must not come to school. If a child shows any symptoms at school, we will contact their parents or carers so we can send them home. Anyone with symptoms must self-isolate and stay at home for at least 7 days from when the symptoms started. Everyone in the household of someone with symptoms must stay at home.
for 14 days - they should not go to work, school or use public transport or taxis. Nobody should go out even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise must be taken at home.

Anyone with symptoms should immediately arrange to have a Coronavirus test. If a student’s test is negative, they can come back to school. If the test is positive, they cannot come back to school until they have recovered, the minimum time they must stay at home is 7 days. If your child has a Coronavirus test, you must let us know the result as soon as possible. If the test is positive, we will need to advise everyone in their class group to stay home for 14 days.

All the information about what to do if you have symptoms is available the Government website here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

At school, we will make sure that children wash their hands often. Please make sure that your child understands that it is important that they wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water and that they cough and sneeze safely into a tissue or their elbow.

This has been a very unsettling time for everyone and we want to make sure that all of our children enjoy their time at school when they return. We know that some of our pupils may be anxious about coming back to school, some may have had relatives who have been ill with the virus, others may have been bereaved. We will do our very best to make sure that all children are supported and enjoy returning to learning at school. Please do let us know if your child might need some extra help when they come back.

All of our teachers and school staff have worked incredibly hard to put all of the measures needed in place to make our school safe, we really appreciate your patience and understanding whilst we made our plans. If you need any further information, please let me know, I look forward to seeing some of you at a social distance very soon.

Fiona Chapman
Principal