22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Wider Opening of School Plans**

We are writing to you to update you on our plans in readiness for the wider open of our school. As you can imagine this is difficult to compose, as guidance changes so regularly, and the advice that we receive from the government is not always given to us in a timely manner.

On Friday 29 May, there will be a special scientific advisory meeting with Government ministers where the most up-to-date scientific evidence and data will be analysed against the Government’s five tests for easing lockdown. A decision by the Government to allow any additional young people into schools will only be made if the conditions of the five tests are satisfied. Obviously, until this information is published we are unable to provide you with a definitive answer as to whether our youngest children in the Early Years setting, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 students will be able to return from 1 June.

As has previously been communicated at Haxby Road Primary Academy, we will need to consider and risk assess our plans safely and cautiously where staff, pupil and community safety is put first and foremost without compromise. It is our aim to do the best we can to minimise the risk of infection. We hope that by starting slowly, we will succeed in bringing children back to school in a sensitive manner.

When we do open to more children, it is our initial intention that children in **Reception** will return first and then this will be reviewed at a later date, so that we can then offer provisional places to Nursery and then Tiny Steps in phased stages. For **Reception**, we plan to have children together within small family teams of up to 10 children with a designated staff team that will stay with them for the time that they are in school.  This is based on the capacity of each classroom, which will differ on their ability to accommodate children whilst paying heed to the 2 metre social distancing advice and staffing structure. Children will not necessarily be in their current classroom/area or have their current teacher but we will endeavour to ensure that they will be with an adult that they are familiar with.

Based on our weekly phone call conversations that class teachers have had with the parents of children in **Reception**, and the information that you have shared with us about your child attending school, we are now in a position to conditionally offer those identified children in Reception 2 full days from the week **beginning 8 June**. Your child will either attend school at the beginning of week (Monday and Tuesday) **or** at the end of the week (Thursday and Friday).  We will not be able to offer breakfast club or after school club to these children.

On Wednesdays our school will not be not be open to children in Reception as this time will be used to deep clean the learning areas and environments, to help minimise the risk of infection. It will only remain open for the group of children who have been attending school since the start of the lockdown. These children have been specifically allocated a place due to their own personal circumstances.

Our school provision will look different to the educational setting that they left when in school last March, however please feel reassured that the Teachers and Assistant Teachers have worked hard to provide many appropriate and exciting interactive learning activities. All of which the children currently attending our provision have thoroughly enjoyed. Our school behaviour expectations will continue as normal with children sensitively being made aware of the importance of social distancing. Children will not have to wear school uniform but instead may wear clothes that are comfortable and appropriate. It is recommended that children’s clothes are washed after each session in school.

Reception children who attend school for two days a week will be provided with a free school meal for the days they are in, because all children in Reception are entitled to this.  For those children who will not be attending, if you have been receiving meal vouchers, you will continue to get these in the usual way.

Please can we ask that all children who come to school bring with them a personal water bottle that is clearly labelled with their name on it.

Finally, we understand that a lot of parents may not wish to send their child in **Reception** back to school. As a school, we want to reassure you that there will **not be any** financial consequence to keeping your child at home. Therefore, as a result of this, we will continue to provide your child with home learning support activities that reflect and compliment the provision of what is happening in school. If you require any further support, then please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Below is a provisional timeline of what our current plan and provision looks like, **however this is subject to change:**

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| 29.05.20 | Parents to be updated with information from the special scientific advisory meeting with Government ministers. |
| 01.06.20 | Parents of reception children (who wish for their child to attend) are given specific details regarding social distancing in school and staggered starts / times for entry and exit from school. |
| 08.06.20 | Phased return of identified small groups of reception return. |
| 19.06.20 | Review of reception family groups to include more children where possible. |
| 25.06.20 | All parents to receive an update regarding our schools position and plans to further increase children from other year groups |

Kind regards.

Mrs Malster-Hinett & Mrs Winter

Co-Headteachers of School