



KOINONIA
C OF E SCHOOLS FEDERATION
*Excellence through innovation,
founded in faith since 1840.*

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

FEDERATION BUSINESS MANAGER

Ms Sue Eden

FEDERATION FACILITIES MANAGER

Mr Dapo Williams

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are sure that you have heard in the news that the Government hopes children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be able to return to school from the 1st June. They have shared that a phased return for early years settings and schools aims to ensure that the youngest children and those preparing for the transition to secondary school, have maximum time with their teachers. Secondary schools are also expected to work towards the possibility of providing some face-to-face contact with young people in Year 10 to help them prepare for exams next year (although this is not an expectation for the 1st June). Priority groups, including vulnerable children and children of critical workers who have been eligible to attend throughout school closures, will be able to continue to do so.

As you can imagine this is a very complex change that will need a great deal of planning as well as risk assessments. A number of key priorities will need consideration:

- reducing the size of classes and keeping children in small groups without mixing with others
- staggered break and lunch times, as well as drop offs and pick ups
- increasing the frequency of cleaning, reducing the used of shared items and utilising outdoor space.

We are currently working alongside our leadership teams and the local authority so that we are able to move towards a phased return in conjunction with the need to continue to provide home learning for other year groups. Although further guidance was issued by the government late on Monday there are still many questions from teaching and support staff unions about how the proposals can be put into action with just a few weeks before the 1st June. We are aware that a number of professional bodies are seeking further clarity from the government to support school leaders in formulating their plans. It may be that not all four primary year groups will be able to return as soon as the 1st June (especially on a full-time basis) due to the complexity of co-ordinating the safety of so many pupils and staff. We will continue to work hard to devise our plans for the new arrangements. We will send further correspondence outlining plans for the 1st June onwards as soon as we can but please bear in mind this may not be possible until later in the month.

We would like to thank all those parents and pupils who have responded to our home learning questionnaires, for your ongoing support at home and all the kind messages of thanks.

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We understand some of you will be concerned that your child will not be being taught face to face by teachers, particularly over such a long period of time. Our teaching team have been working hard to set a variety of work to engage the children as well as make it as accessible as possible in such difficult circumstances. The team are also trying hard to give feedback to encourage the pupils with their work as well as making fortnightly phone calls to ensure everyone is safe and well. There have been some requests for class zoom meetings and interactive video lessons which we have given some careful thought to. Unfortunately, there are some complex safeguarding concerns (shared by teacher unions) as well as logistical difficulties which hinder us in providing this presently. In the meantime, we will encourage more staff members to volunteer in making YouTube videos that can be viewed on our Koinonia Federation YouTube channel so that pupils are able to see some familiar faces.

We have received some queries from parents who are returning to work but who are not key workers. The advice regarding which children should be in school has not changed and we can only provide care for key worker families (when there is no-one else at home to care for them) and vulnerable groups. The Prime Minister was clear on Monday that if workers cannot get childcare, then employers should not expect staff to return to work.

We are entering another period of unprecedented change but would like to assure you we will share with you any information as soon as we possibly can.

We hope that you all continue to remain safe and well.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright
Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

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