

Cupernham Infant School

Together we care, we learn and we enjoy success

Headteacher: Mr Duncan Wells



Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Possible phased reopening of Cupernham Infant School

You will have heard from the Prime Minister that primary schools will possibly begin a phased return for children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6, from the 1st June.

As you will be aware, we are not a primary school, but a rather large infant school. 139 children fall within the Year R and Year One year groups. We are currently looking at what a phased return will look like for our children. It isn't practically possible for us to have all 139 children in school at the same time, whilst implementing the strict government guidelines.

In order to put children into groups of 15 or smaller (12 in our case due to the size of our classrooms) we would require 12 classrooms. We only have 9. If Year 2 are to return to school in July, under the same guidelines, then we would require 20 classrooms. We also have to continue to provide emergency provision for our most vulnerable children and those children of emergency key workers.

The guidance from the government states that where schools cannot accommodate a return to school for the identified groups, they should prioritise, starting with the youngest children first, as follow:

- early years settings - 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups
- **infant schools - nursery (where applicable) and reception**
- primary schools - nursery (where applicable), reception and year 1

As a school we have to plan a phased return to manage any possible risk. It is therefore with regret that **if** the school reopens on the 1st June, we will be unable to accommodate Year one children at this point. We will be watching how our children in Year R settle into school, then we will review our systems, processes and safe use of spaces to help us look at how children in Year 1 could possibly return later in June, along with Year 2 in July if we are able to do so.

I know that this will come as a disappointment to both you and your child, but I'm sure you will understand we need to manage the return to school in a careful, controlled and safe way, both in line with government guidance and with all our safety at the forefront. I wanted to give you as much notice as possible.

We continue to prioritise school spaces for **children in Yr. R, 1 and 2**, who are vulnerable and for those children whose parents are classified as critical key workers. This list has not changed since it was published. Please check the list to see if you meet the criteria. If you now need this provision due to a change in circumstances, let us know the days you require our emergency provision and provide a letter from your employer. Email us at adminoffice@cupernham-inf.hants.sch.uk

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The Government link to the key worker list can be found [here](#).

We want to make sure we listen to the whole community so that as we continue to plan, we are able to take into account everyone's views. There are many different aspects to consider, and as this is an unprecedented time, we have as many questions as you do.

If you are parent of a child in Yr. R and Yr. 1, I would be very grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire by Tuesday 19th May 12noon. Please find the link [here](#).

This information will be very important to us and will help us to plan numbers of children who could be attending, children of critical key workers and the projected Year 1 numbers if a possible phased return is achievable. Completing this survey is not a commitment from you but it is an important step in ensuring we put in place the correct provision.

I will be in touch later this week to let you know what the phased return for Year R will look like and the possible plans we may have for Year 1 based on the results of the questionnaire.

In the meantime, teachers continue to plan and provide online and home learning activities for your child to complete. Next week is May half term so there will be no online resources uploaded for that week.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support through these challenging times.

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wells', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr. Duncan Wells, Headteacher.