

5th June 2020

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Headteacher: Mrs A Neale-B Ed (Hons)

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I am writing to update you as there is a lot of worry and concern for us all.

The DfE and Government are directing school settings to prepare for wider opening. Throughout the COVID 19 outbreak, Tiverton has continued to ensure that the most vulnerable, at risk pupils have attended school.

As we prepare for wider opening, we are working with the Local Authority, parents and school staff to review and update our position, reviewing risk so that we can ensure we can meet the needs of children safely.

Every child and their circumstances, who attends the school site has been carefully risk assessed. ALL of our pupils have a EHCP and they are ALL very unique. Our current Risk Assessment is based upon the number of pupils, which we can safely accommodate in "class bubbles" of limited numbers, which allow for as much social distancing as possible, due to the nature of their special needs.

As a school community we can never ensure "No risk" to your child. We do reduce the risks of spread of the infection by constant handwashing, social distancing, PPE e.g.; gloves, masks, aprons etc, disinfectant cleaning regimes and small "class bubbles". We currently only have about a quarter of our pupils on site.

Where families are "unable to support their child at home" we work to try and plan for a return to school, whilst reviewing the risks to child, family and staff. All of the staff at Tiverton school have been truly amazing and committed to each and every pupil's wellbeing; on and off site.

The Government reminds us of the "5 key tests, vulnerability, phased and safe transition back to full time education." From 1st June, under Government guidance, we were able to make provision for some pupils from year 6.

I want to reassure you all that as a school we are committed to this, providing it is safe to do so in our setting.

Particular care is needed in the planning for and supporting our pupils, so we are implementing protective measures and reviewing them constantly.

As you will appreciate, so many of our children do not understand the concept of (nor can) socially distance, or why (PPE) protective clothing and masks are needed. Nor why they are in small “class bubbles”. Many pupils need “hands on” support at certain times of the day.

We recently sent out a survey to find out your opinions about whether you would want your child to attend school, at the moment. Thank you for responding.

During the next 6 weeks, until the end of the academic year, we will only be able to take more pupils, where our risk assessment and the optimum safe number, allows.

Rest assured though that we are constantly reviewing the risks and finding ways to support all our pupils.

We are hopeful of a “state of normality” in September 2020. In the meantime, our school Risk Assessment focusses on how best to minimise risk of spread of infection for pupils and staff in the current climate. We will continue to keep you informed as the situation changes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governors, parents, family members and staff, for working together in the very best interests of ALL our pupils.

If you have any questions, concerns, please call us, or let your class teacher know.
We will continue of course to provide home learning activities via class dojo.

Stay safe and thank you for working together with us.

Yours sincerely

Alison Neale
Head Teacher