



Thorndown Primary School and Pre-School

Hill Rise, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 6SE

Tel: 01480 375103

Headteacher: Miss V Godbold



15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the next steps towards easing lockdown and the government's suggestions that on the 1st June some pupils could return to Thorndown. As Covid19 persists, there are considerable concerns about the safety of our pupils and their families, staff and the wider community when restrictions are eased. As you can imagine, lots of information is being released by the Government and the Department for Education, but not all questions have yet been answered.

I want to reassure all parents that my Senior Leadership Team and I are currently looking carefully at the guidance and are taking advice from the Local Authority. Our aim is to work with you to prevent the transmission of Covid19 within our school community and avoid a second spike of infection, which we know would lead to increased pressure on the NHS and increased deaths. We are therefore mindful of the following things:

- The need to adhere to social distancing rules, keeping 2 metres apart throughout the school day, from drop off to the end of each session.
- The need to ensure that the school is clean to reduce transmission of the virus.
- The need to enable children easy access to their classrooms and toileting areas, whilst following social distancing rules.
- Awareness of pupils' mental health and that fact that the children have been away from a school structure, routine and their class teacher for nearly eight weeks.
- Clear workplace rules for all staff, which the school must follow.
- Forward-thinking planning, which ensures we can fulfil the DfE's ambition that all pupils can return safely to school by the beginning of July, if the R number remains low.
- Being aware that some children will not be able to return to school and therefore staff will need time to plan work for their children in school, children who are at home and still communicate via Class Dojo.
- And much, much more...





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As a result of all that we will need to implement, and although we will try to keep things as normal as possible for the children, school will be a very different place. I fully understand that parents will have differing views about sending their children back to school; some of you, I know, are feeling very reticent about your child returning, whilst others can't wait to get your child back into school and return to some form of "normal". I know that whatever safe route we choose will not suit everyone and it will not be as family or work friendly as it was before lockdown. Thorndown cannot return to the pre-lockdown organisation on our possible partial return in June and the physical and mental health and safety of our 550 pupils and over 100 members of staff must be at the forefront of our minds.

Please bear with us as we work hard to create the best safe learning space for our children and staff. I will be sending you more information as decisions are made by the Government and by the school.

I have sent you a brief online questionnaire to try to get an understanding of who is thinking, at this point, about sending their child back to school. Whilst I fully appreciate that feelings may change for some families as the weeks progress, I need to know these numbers to us help plan more precisely our return to school.

Yours sincerely,

Vicci Godbold

