



St. Matthew's High Brooms C.E. Primary School
Powder Mill Lane
Tunbridge Wells
TN4 9DY
Telephone: 01892 528098
Email: office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk
Head teacher: Mrs S Hayward
Deputy Heads: Mrs C Pollard and Mr T Hardwick

Fulfilling God-given potential

20th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: School reopening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 - Survey

As you know, the Government has asked schools to reopen during the final weeks of the summer term for pupils in reception, year 1 and year 6 as well as children of key workers and vulnerable groups. Your child will be allocated within a group of up to 15 children that will be taught by a teacher or experienced teaching assistant. It may well not be his/her usual teacher. The allocation of groups will be decided by staff and will not be flexible once in place. This will remain the case until we are instructed to open the school fully to other year groups.

We are fully aware that the decision to send your child back to school is a daunting one and so wish to assure you that we will be following the strict guidance that has been circulated to schools.

We have no start date confirmed and cannot do so until we receive survey responses back. The Government have said that the earliest schools can return is June 1st but this is not a start date for all schools. Each school must carry out a risk assessment and only when satisfied can they open the school. Your response on the survey is to whether you will choose to send your child back to school if we can reopen in the Summer Term.

Approaches we have been asked to take prior to schools opening on 1st June include:

- Carrying out a risk assessment before opening to more children – the assessment should directly address risks associated with coronavirus so that sensible measures can be put in place to minimise those risks for children and staff
- Making sure that children do not attend if they or a member of their household have symptoms of coronavirus
- Promoting regular handwashing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach
- Cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, hand rails, tables, play equipment and toys
- Minimising contact with other pupils through smaller classes or group sizes and altering the environment as much as possible such as changing the layout of classrooms and removing toys
- Reducing mixing between groups through timetable changes such as staggered break times and by introducing staggered drop-off and collection times.

We will aim to ensure social distancing of 2 metres from each child as per government guidelines however it is recognised that socially distancing younger children is very challenging. Allocated groups will remain isolated from each other





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The Government is strongly encouraging children in the eligible groups to attend school unless they are isolating or they have other reasons absence such as shielding due to health conditions. However, **they have said that parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.**

As you can appreciate the reopening of the school, following all the health and safety guidance for pupils and staff is a huge undertaking. In order for us to plan as effectively as possible we need to know how many children will be returning. **We need definite numbers to work with**, and as such we regret that there will not be a 'maybe' option in the survey.

The options on the survey will be for school hours only:

- Yes, they are returning
- No, they are not returning

If you answer 'no' to any of the questions, you may want to indicate why your child will not attend.

It is important that you have all the information you need before making a decision to send your child back to school, so before completing the survey it is imperative that you read the Government guidance for parents. It can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Please complete the survey **10am on Friday 22nd May**. It is very quick to complete – just one minute and the information will be really useful for our planning. The survey can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SG7o-eUP4PbcI5f4B-DCzG3R23bkrgegYxsWPQLfOK0/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5ec42b69

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Hayward
Headteacher
St Matthew's CE Primary School

