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22nd May 2020

Dr Ralf Müller
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. It has been an extremely busy time in everyone's homes but I hope we have been able to support you well. It has certainly boosted staff seeing and hearing some of the fantastic things you have been doing with your children online.

By now you will have heard the Government news that there is a *possibility* that schools will reopen on 1st June for priority groups. For a Junior School our priority group has been identified as Year 6.

I am sure you must be thinking, just as I am, how we can socially distance a group of children. It will be difficult, but there are actions we will put in place to reduce any potential spread of infection as much as possible. These include

- Teaching in smaller consistent groups (9)
- Frequent hand washing
- Good hygiene practices
- Regular and additional cleaning
- Minimising the number of adult contacts a child has
- Making rooms as spacious as possible
- Maximising the use of outdoor learning
- No objects will be transferred between home and school (e.g. book bags)
- Staggered play times
- Hot dinners will be served in classrooms (one choice)
- Allowing only 1 parent to drop off/pick up outside school gates
- Adults to enter school premises by appointment only

This is not the full list but school life will certainly not look as it usually does. To facilitate small groups your child may not be taught by their own class teacher or in their own classroom. Once children are assigned to a small group of children they will remain with the same group and adults consistently. This will reduce the number of contacts the children have.

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Our curriculum will initially be based around establishing routines and rules. We will place a great emphasis on Personal, Social and Emotional education, as like all of us, our pupils have been through unprecedented times. Following this we will begin to look at basic skills of English and Maths, in line with the home learning that will continue to be set for those who do not return to school.

We will insist on staggered start and end times to ensure that social distancing can be adhered to. We will have a one way system around school (entrance via the gate leading to the conservatory and exit via the school yard past the trim trail). We will respectfully ask that you remain 2m back from other parents whilst waiting by the gates or staff if you need to speak with them. To reduce contact points as much as possible we ask that you do not enter the school office but contact by phone or email.

As parents there are some things we ask of you to support our attempts to minimise risks to our children and staff. We will provide your child with a water bottle and ask that each child brings this water bottle into school each day. This is the only thing children should bring into school (other than a coat), so please no mobile phones. Where possible the children should wear school uniform. We appreciate that some children will have grown out of things over the past eight weeks so understand that you may need to use other clothing also. However, to support our return to school, we ask that pupils wear clothes similar to uniform eg plain t-shirts, not sports tops. It is important that the children's clothes are washed *daily* to reduce risks. We know that you will understand these are essential to keep our community safe.

The Government asks that children are strongly encouraged to attend school, however, parents **WILL NOT** be fined for non-attendance during this time. Parents need to make the right decision for their child. As stated previously we will still continue to provide home learning for those not in school. Our Trust will continue to provide FSM vouchers to *all* children who are eligible until school closure on 17th July.

I need to be sure that we can deliver education in the safest possible way for our children, staff and parents. We are continuously assessing how to minimise risks as best as possible. This means that other year groups will not be invited in at the same time initially. We will start with our Year 6. We thank those of you who have given us an indication of whether you will send your child back. We are now working with the

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numbers, our site layout and our staffing capacity to work out how this is possible. If we can work safely with our priority groups and at all times protect our pupils and staff, only then would we work towards opening the school up to other year groups. If and when the Government asks us to open the school up for other year groups then the provision for your child may change again and this could mean a reduced timetable for your child in school. We will ensure you are given ample notice and kept up to date of these changes.

If schools open on the 1st June this will be for teachers only to prepare fully for the safe return of your children. Our first *potential* opening date for children will be Tuesday 2nd June.

To ensure the school receives the additional cleaning required and to enable the continuity of home learning, school will only be open from *Monday to Thursday* (closed on Fridays, except for our Key Worker children).

If you have stated that your child will be returning, a member of staff will contact you with details of times, which door etc, this will be by phone on Monday, 1st June.

I apologise that we are unable to give precise detail of school re-opening details but as well as awaiting further Government guidance, it is essential that we assess every potential risk for the safety of the Alexandra Community. Please contact the school email with any queries you have.

Stay safe,

Dr Ralf Müller

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