

# Harting C. of E. Primary School



11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents

Following Gavin Williamson's announcement on Tuesday, we are debating if and how we can invite additional children back to school safely. Rest assured, we are missing all the children who are unable to be here and would love to see them before the end of the summer term, if it is safe to do so.

Current DfE guidance means that we are trying to ensure that children are in groups of 15 or less, which has implications for staffing. Space is another consideration for schools, as we endeavour to seat children as far apart as possible, both in class time and for meals.

Before making our decision about additional year groups, we really need to know if your child is currently in a category, eligible for a place, and you are considering sending them back before the end of term. The year groups who have been invited, to date, are year R, 1 and 6 along with 'Key workers' children' and those regarded as 'vulnerable'.

The government has changed their emphasis from children to 'stay at home, if at all possible', to encouraging groups to come in but it is for you to decide, based on your own home/family context. As I have said before, health is precious and I am not able to make informed decisions for you or your loved ones about the risks.

**Please can you let the school office know by midday on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June if:**

- 1. You are a key worker parent who is not currently using a childcare space, here at school, and you foresee that you will be sending your child back (before the end of term).** *If you are key worker with a child already attending school, don't worry – we know about you, there is no need to respond to this letter.* (Key worker is defined as having a job which is critical to the COVID19 response).
- 2. All other parents:** if you know that you are **definitely going to keep your child at home this term** (because of shielding or any other reason), **and have not already let us know, even if in y2,3,4 or 5.**

This information, along with the government's promised priority list (when published), will enable us to assess the risks and consider the logistics, to opening the school to wider groups of children – something we are keen to do, as long as it is safe and we have sufficient staff.

On another subject, the government IT support is currently for secondary children only. We do have some 'elderly' laptops, which were initially used by 'vulnerable' groups, but have since returned to school. Should your child need to have one on a long loan, to ease pressure on home IT equipment, please let us know.

I look forward to hearing from those of you who might wish their children to return soon (and are currently eligible), as well as those whose children will not be back before September (unless you have already informed us) and thank you for letting us know.

We send you our best wishes, particularly to those of you we haven't yet seen.

Take care.

Fiona

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