

18th May 2020

Dear Parents

Although the 1st June return to school is still in the balance, as there have been representations between various groups, we are preparing for the opening of school to year R, 1 and 6 along with the 'Rainbow' children (children of key workers, etc). We are doing this to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as we possibly can, once we are given a 'green light', rather than leave things to the last minute, which has been the DfE's mode of operating recently!

Some of our actions include:

- ensuring that furniture is arranged to best effect
- purchasing extra cleaning materials and hygiene equipment (much of which has arrived)
- planning staggered timings for arrivals, meals, playtimes, etc
- organising smaller groups within year groups, with dedicated staffing each week
- preparing routines for children to stick to, so that their hand hygiene is as good as it can be, along with an altered timetable to allow this
- zoning play areas so children stay in their groups, as much as possible
- planning sessions to allow children to talk about their feelings about this crisis
- preparing learning resources for year groups that will initially remain at home, as well as those attending school

This is only some of what we are trying to do for everyone's well-being. What is evident, however, is that it will not be possible to ensure that children maintain 'social distancing', no matter how hard we try.

There is a lot of debate in the media, currently, about the right thing to do regarding the return to school. As, public employees, I can guarantee that the Harting staff is exceptionally committed to the children and families. The care is evident in the way they spent early Friday evening on zoom, supporting me with the risk assessment, considering safety.

I am aware that, for some families, there are significant concerns about the timing of children returning to school. With this in mind, I ask that you let the school office know by midday this Wednesday, (20th June), if you **do not** wish your yR, y1, y6 or other 'eligible pupils' to return. If possible, please do this by email with a brief explanation of your thinking – just for the record.

Thank you for your support during this tricky time. Please be assured that we are missing all of you and your children and will continue to do as much as we can to help you.

Take care

Fiona