



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Recovery Planning

With all the 'noise' in the media, I just want to keep you updated with where we are in our recovery planning.

We were somewhat surprised by the latest guidance issued by the government last night. Along with all other schools, our formative plans, that we have been working on all week, were based on the idea of children returning to school on a part-time basis i.e. half of EYFS, Y1 and Y6 attending for the first half of the week and the others attending at the end of the week. With children being limited to 15 in a class, this seems to be the only way, ultimately, to get all the children into school. However, the government guidance issued yesterday is now instructing schools to open to all children in EYFS, Y1, Y6 and all key workers, from June 1st or soon thereafter, on a full-time basis.

In the interests of transparency, you may see the guidance here (although I'm not recommending you read it !):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june>

At Carr Lane, we have 125 key worker children as well as 60 children in most year groups (62 in EYFS). We therefore face an enormous challenge. Opening as requested will mean coping with 250 children in 18 groups or 'bubbles' with 15 children in each bubble. It will mean keeping these bubbles as separate from other bubbles during the day as possible. It means devising systems for staggered entry/exit to the school site, having 18 physical class spaces (even though we are a school of only 14 classrooms), staggering lunches, dividing playgrounds etc. We are also instructed to only let parents as far as the school gate, so we will need to work out how to receive and hand-over safely.

Of course, we also have the challenge of having many staff (teachers and others), who are defined as 'clinically vulnerable', who are advised to work from home wherever possible and keep stringently 2m apart.

As well as making provision for all of the above children, we also need to continue to make provision for home learning for the other 170 children in years 2,3,4 and 5. The Google classrooms have been working extremely well and we would ideally like to keep them in place for children who are not invited back.

In terms of distancing, I know that you will have significant levels of anxiety. I have said before that it is not realistic to expect young children to keep socially distanced and I won't pretend that it is. Classrooms are not big enough to sit 15 children 2metres apart. And very young children cannot sit behind desks all day. In their guidance documents, the government acknowledges that young children can't socially distance, but they do set out guidance on how to reduce risks of transmission as much as possible. We will be working with our staff and the Local Authority in drawing up a risk

assessment with a range of measures to reduce any risk of transmission as much as possible. I will give you details of these once formulated.

As soon as we have our recovery plans drawn up, I will share these with you.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all parents and carers for the work you have done to date in taking on 'joint teacher' role at home, whilst juggling all your other pressures and priorities. You have all done a fantastic job. Your support of staff and our whole community has really helped us to keep up our own morale. I am extremely appreciative. Thank you.

This next move will undoubtedly be challenging for all of us. It won't be the same as before. And some of the necessary changes will inevitably cause all of us inconveniences. However, I know we will all pull together to make it work for our little friends.

Keep safe and have a good weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher