



Sheepscombe Primary School
01452 813852
 admin@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk
 www.sheepscombeschool.co.uk



22nd May 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a very busy couple of weeks preparing for the possible reopening of our school on June 1st under the conditions set out nationally for schools, with lots of adjustments being made to plans as we go to take account of the daily alterations that keep coming our way.

We have been told as Head teachers that a final decision will be made at 7.00 p.m on Thursday 28th May. I will be in touch with you all in the days following that announcement, whichever way it goes. So we may, or may not, see some of you on Monday 1st June.

As I have said in my letter to you all, the welcome to school will be just as bright as it ever is and we are very keen that children do not feel anxious about their return. Please do tell your children that we are the same school, same staff but with minor adjustments and some increased hygiene practices - which we will take them through carefully and sensitively, whenever they come back.

Thank you all for your replies to my email asking you to say whether you think you might want to return to school in the near future - at the time of writing I have just two families who haven't replied with their thoughts about school reopening and whether they want a place now, later, maybe, possibly, who knows or not until September. All permutations are fine - if that's you that hasn't replied, please do. A bit of a clue... in Eagle class, both year 5s!

Working out a plan for our school has been rather akin to learning to read when the letters don't quite make sense or the numbers don't add up even though you've tried a thousand times and a thousand times more. It makes us try harder and think harder until it comes right. We have thought carefully as a school team, including governors, about the plans we have in place. These have been shared with you in a letter, so please look at it carefully.

To that end, whilst I will read any advice you might want to send me about what I could do differently, please don't expect me to implement every suggestion you might have - each of us has a different opinion and what we've arrived at is a consensus and a best fit for our school at this moment in time. We likely will make changes as we go, please bear with us. Please also understand that every school is different so we might not be doing the same as every other school and they won't be doing the same as their nearby schools either. We have spoken extensively as Head teachers to each other as we have made a path towards reopening.

To confirm once again, in phase 1, planned for 1st June (but this may yet be later), we plan to welcome back to school some of our children in Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery plus our keyworker children and in phase 2 all being well, the rest of the school (so years 2,3,4 and 5). It is entirely your parental choice whether to send your child to school and there are many varying factors for each family to consider and no one right or wrong answer. Our school will be open and parents are free to choose. We will be very pleased to see your children back in school as and when you are ready.

From the feedback you have given me for phase 1 in relation to what you are thinking you will do, we expect around 23 children in total from the 37 or so eligible for phase 1 in school from 1st June. Of course this is subject to change as you make your final decisions.

Keep in mind that the information we have set out could change in an instant if the guidance for schools changes. It may possibly even have changed by the time I press the send button back to Mrs Powell to put together the newsletter. Bear with me if this happens - we're really truly trying our best.

In other news - whilst we can't do a school play as such this year we're currently planning to make some kind of audio book or play with songs as an alternative by the end of the summer term. Peter Pan, from the company Out of the Ark, is the play that we'll be looking at as a whole school (whether you are at home or school). We've ordered enough CD's for every family to have a song CD, which we'll be sending out to you all, so be prepared to get singing! Hopefully there will be some really infectious (and slightly annoying) ones so you can experience the life of a summer term teacher to the fullest extent. We're still figuring out how to do this, so more news will follow. If you wouldn't mind writing your own annual reports too we'd be really grateful! (Just kidding). We also hope you like the photos in this newsletter as you play 'guess who' for the pictures of us in our younger years!

Have a lovely half term - and stay safe, sane and well. If you need anything over half term, please do get in touch.

'An inspirational setting where all children flourish' what more could we say!

Stay safe and well,

Mrs Barron - Head teacher



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Guess Who?