

# Cheapside C. of E. Primary School

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Headteacher

Mrs Kate Searle

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**\*The information below is subject to change and cannot be confirmed fully until 28<sup>th</sup> May when the Prime Minister is due to make his next statement.\***

First, we would like to say how much we have appreciated the messages of support and thanks that we have received since our school community was transformed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We have been overwhelmed by the engagement our families have shown in our Home Learning and would like to thank you all for everything that you are doing with your children in these difficult and challenging times.

As you are aware, the government announcement on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 brought us a step closer to returning to some sort of normality when we were told that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 would hopefully be returning to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. However, in order to ensure that this is done safely and responsibly, putting the welfare of the children and staff at the heart of it, it is going to be a process of small steps.

We would therefore like to update you on our plans for the proposed, phased re-opening of Cheapside School in the week beginning 1st June 2020. We ask that you look in some detail at the School Reopening Plan, which takes you through the general principles of how we intend to reopen the school step-by-step and also has a section of FAQs that we have put together in order to be as comprehensive and transparent about what the reopening of the school will look like for families.

At the moment, we are unable to open the school on a full-time basis, apart from for our Key Workers and vulnerable children, as it is not possible for us to staff the smaller class sizes in accordance with government guidance. We also believe that it is key to the children's well-being that the provision offered is with their own class teacher thereby ensuring the emotional well-being of the children coming back into school, and so it is with this in mind that we are only able to offer each child two days per week. We appreciate that some parents might be disappointed by this decision but hope that once you have read both our School Reopening Plan and the Recovery Curriculum documents you will see that it has been well considered and is in everyone's best interests at this point. In planning the reopening, we have also had to take into consideration the well-being of the children who will *not* be coming back to school to ensure that we can still keep open the lines of communication that have been so effectively set-up with our class emails and also enable our teachers to have time to provide Home Learning for ALL children as well as to work in school with the children we have here.

As all parents and staff realise, complete social distancing for young children is virtually impossible. The Government guidance says, 'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff'. We have therefore incorporated this in our planning measures, which we believe are realistic and workable whilst designed to help keep us all as safe as possible. Everything we have introduced has been based around the Risk

Assessments from RBWM and these will be monitored and reviewed on a daily basis and guided by any changing government or Local Authority guidance.

Please remember that children who have been asked to shield or have underlying health conditions, or who are living with a shielded adult, should not return to school at this time but continue with the Home Learning that we will still be providing.

Please be assured that if your child is in any other year group they are not being overlooked. We will still be uploading work for all year groups onto the website and striving to provide the level of support we have worked so hard to achieve over the last nine weeks.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff. They have worked tirelessly to create a new way of providing innovative learning through a means of communication which they had never needed before. They are now planning and preparing for this next step and we want to thank them for their dedication and perseverance. We know they are looking forward to our proposed reopening and we hope you are too.

All primary educational settings are unique and the government's guidance does not stipulate a one size fits all policy for educational settings to manage the proposed phase return. Following consultation with the governors and all our staff, we feel the safest option is to test the measures we plan to put in place, in a controlled way over the first three weeks as detailed in our Return to School Plan – Phase 1.

After you have had time to take in all the information you have been sent, if you still have questions or concerns that you feel you need addressing prior to making your decision, you may contact us over the half term break on the SLT email address and we will respond by collating questions and responding via another set of FAQs. However, if we feel that your query needs an individual response, we will of course reply to that. Email us at [SLT@cheapsideschool.org.uk](mailto:SLT@cheapsideschool.org.uk)

Finally, it is **your** choice to send your child back to school, so please consider all the points in our plan before making your final decision. The safety of your child is paramount and you must feel comfortable with the decision you make.

Yours sincerely

Kate Searle, Claire Summers and Clare Roberts  
**Senior Leadership Team**

Dan Littleboy  
**On behalf of the Governing Body of Cheapside School**

### *Working Together*

*The Ascot School Cluster have been working hard over recent weeks to make careful and safe plans for the phased reopening of our schools. Whilst all our schools are unique and different, we share a collective desire to serve our school communities in a safe way; meeting the social and emotional needs of all our pupils coupled with delivering an appropriate education. We are, as a cluster of schools, supportive in each other's efforts as a connected community to do what is right and safe.*

