



Lessness Heath Primary School

Erith Road, Belvedere, Kent. DA17 6HB

Tel: 01322 433290

Head Teacher - Mrs K O'Connor

Deputy Head - Miss A Bolton

Respect Belonging Co-operation Honesty Perseverance Responsibility

Information regarding a phased return to school – Please read carefully

Choice to return

I would like to reassure you that the decision for your child to return to school this term, if and when their year group is called in, is for you to make.

The school will continue to provide high quality distance learning for all year groups, including the year groups that have returned in line with Government guidance.

The distance learning will be the same as what we are providing in school for year groups who have returned and will cover the same areas.

No parents will receive fines if their child does not attend school during this period.

Social Distancing and Infection Control

From the survey that was sent out this week, many parents raised concerns about social distancing in schools and how this will be achieved. We have been sent guidance from the Government advising on social distancing and reducing the risk of spreading the virus.

- Classes of no more than 15
- Children will remain with the same adults and children within their group
- Adults not moving between different groups where possible
- Regular handwashing
- Staggered starts and ends to the day, as well as playtimes, to prevent too many people in the playground
- Thorough and regular deep cleaning of furniture and equipment
- Not sharing pencils and other equipment
- Controlled movement around the school
- At drop off and pick up times, no adults will be allowed onto the school site under any circumstances. All children will be dropped at the back gate and escorted to their adult at the front gate.



There are further actions we will take and I will send these out to parents in full by the end of the week.

I do however want to make clear that even though we are taking all actions possible to practice social distancing, we believe it is extremely challenging to implement social distancing within a primary school, particularly for the youngest children in Nursery and Reception.

We want parents to be aware that we will rigorously adhere to our risk assessments but cannot guarantee children will not be in close contact with other children or objects other children have touched, and the Government guidance acknowledges this issue.

Staffing

As you would expect, there are also challenges with the team of staff that will be able to come into school during this time:

- We anticipate having some members of staff who are classed as clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable or live with someone from this category. In some cases, the staff member cannot come in and in other cases they can be in but cannot be around the children.
- Other members of staff have childcare issues, and therefore will not be able to come in to school.
- We have also factored in that some staff or their family members may become unwell.

As a consequence of this, children may or may not be taught by their teacher when they return. However, be assured that all children will be in a class with adults from our school.

In addition, it will be essential to limit risk during the phased return and guidance clearly states that we should be minimizing contact and mixing. This means that the adults working with the designated groups, where possible, should not change. We feel this is also essential to support your child's emotional wellbeing e.g. a constant change of adults will be unsettling for our children.

Distance Learning

Teachers will continue to provide distance learning for all year groups, however, all teachers will have a teaching commitment, even if their year group has not returned. Given the smaller groups each class will be split in two this will require extra staff than usual, and teachers will also needed to support key workers' children.

That being said, teachers will still be available through email for their year group but this may not be as regular as it has been.