Summary document for parents and carers

These are very challenging times for our country. Staying at home to stop the spread of COVID-19 has been hard for us all, but it has kept people safe and saved lives. Keeping people safe continues to be the government's priority.

Schools were closed for most children for several weeks. Now the government is asking schools to begin plans to welcome more children back. This is because the coronavirus rates are now going down. School is the best place for children to learn. It is good for them to have social times with other children, carers and teachers.

There are 5 key tests set by the government to make sure that it is safe for schools to reopen starting from June 1st. This will be done carefully, looking at risks and what science tells us.

The latest scientific advice to government is that:

- Children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they have coronavirus. Younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus

- Small groups of children going back to school at first, reduces the risk of infections

- Schools can make their own changes to arrangements and put measures in place to reduce risks

We have provided advice to schools and this includes:

- having smaller class sizes

- children and staff spread out more

- extra hygiene measures, such as more cleaning, regular hand-washing and using tissues.

Can my child return to school?

From 1 June, primary schools will begin to welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6. All schools will also continue to offer places to the priority groups they have been supporting since the end of March

What if one child is asked back to school, but has brothers and sisters who are not?

We are asking that only these year groups return to, schools from 1 June.

We hope that all primary school children will be able to go back to school before the summer holidays as well. But this will be under review, as reducing the risks for children and staff is our utmost priority.

How will risks to children, teachers and families be managed?

- If your child or a member of your household has symptoms of coronavirus, they should not come to school.

- regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap. using hand sanitiser and promoting "catch it, bin it, kill it".
- cleaning more often to get rid of the virus on surfaces, such as door handles,
- keeping groups separate with one member of staff
- changing the layout of classrooms so that social distancing can be managed
- timetable changes, such as staggered break times, staggered drop-off and collection times
- having packed lunches in the classroom

Does my child have to come school if they are in these year groups?

The government would like nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils to attend school again.

If the children are extremely clinically vulnerable (CEV) or live in a household where someone is CEV, they should not attend.

If your child is self-isolating or shielding due to health issues, they should not go back.

You will not be fined if your child does not attend school at this time.

If your child has a social worker, they are expected to go to school.

If your child has an EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan) they are expected to go to school.

You should tell your school if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss this with you.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in my child's school?

If a child or adult has symptoms of coronavirus in school, they will be sent home and should self-isolate for 7 days. Other people in their house should self-isolate for 14 days. Deep cleaning will take place. Everyone in school education will be able to have a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Will learning be as normal to children who are attending?

Schools can provide support and education to their children in the way they see fit during this time.

Home learning will continue for year groups that are not starting from 1st June or who are not attending.