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Dear parents and carers,

### **Re: Wider Opening Update**

Thank you to those of you who completed our parent and carer survey last week. Almost 300 of you contributed and it was extremely helpful to hear your views, concerns, questions and suggestions. Whilst many of you indicated that you were keen for your children to return to school to see their friends and teachers and get back to a structured routine and learning, the vast majority expressed concern and feel that it is too soon for schools to open more fully. Many of you also shared concerns about the impact that social distancing measures might have on children's emotional wellbeing and their understanding that school will be different when they return. Similarly, children indicated that they are missing playing with their friends and seeing their teachers but are worried about exposure to the virus and the risk to their health and that of their family members.

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that the government are satisfied that the 5 tests set up as a measure for easing lockdown restrictions have been met and, as a result, the proposed wider opening of schools is to go ahead.

We are very keen to gradually increase the numbers of children attending school and have been considering the measures which need to be taken in order to ensure we can do this as safely as possible. We have undertaken a full and thorough risk assessment, which has included; consideration of available space, staffing levels, staggered timetables, rigorous cleaning schedules and a range of additional safety measures in conjunction with feedback from parent, carer and staff surveys.

If we were to open Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and maintain our current provision for vulnerable children and those who have key worker parents and carers, we would potentially have over 260 children on site. Our risk assessment indicates that it would not be possible to have this number of children on site and maintain recommended safety measures such as social distancing.

We have therefore decided to prioritise additional places for those children and families who are most in need and will be opening more places for children of essential workers and vulnerable children in the first instance. There may be some families who find themselves in a vulnerable position as a result of COVID-19. This may be due to unexpected unemployment, a reduced

income that has severely affected your economic position, parental health conditions or living conditions which prevent children from being able to take their daily exercise. If you think that your child falls into one of these categories and you would like them to attend school, please complete the attached booking form. If you are unsure whether your child is eligible for a place, please do not hesitate to get in touch via e mail. I will be more than happy to discuss individual circumstances with you if it would be helpful.

From **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** we will open one group (bubble) of 15 children in every year group from Nursery to Year 6 with an additional group for our Resource Base children. Details of how this will work practically is in the attached document. The provision will be reviewed in an ongoing way in line with updated guidance from the government, Department for Education, Public Health England and the Local Authority.

We will continue to provide a range of home learning activities for children who are not at school and will keep you updated with any further developments as soon as we are able. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or a member of the senior team. We are here to help and support you as best we can.

Once again I must thank you for your understanding and patience during this period of uncertainty and for your ongoing support and appreciation for the entire staff team.

Best wishes



Manda George  
Headteacher