



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

Headteacher: Manda George

Telephone: 0208 697 2762

E mail: admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

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20th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Increased numbers of children in school

I wrote to you last week to let you know that school staff are working very hard to prepare for more children to return to school in the coming weeks. The government has asked for schools to welcome back more children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 if Coronavirus infections decline sufficiently. The updated government advice for schools regarding this will be made available on 28th May 2020. Whilst our aim is to open more fully as soon as possible, we will only do this when we are certain that it is as safe as possible for us to do so. In light of the date of the final government decision, this may not be as early as Monday 1st June and may not be for the specified year groups above.

I know there is lots of information being shared via the press, on social media, from professional organisations and from government officials regarding schools reopening and this is raising a lot of questions for all of us. As I have previously said, the safety of our children and staff members is our primary concern and, like all schools, we are currently working through the large number of government guidance documents, which continue to be published and updated on a daily basis. Further guidance is likely to be forthcoming and, as always, I will keep you updated as early as I possibly can

The current Department for Education guidance regarding the implementation of protective measures in schools once open to larger numbers of children recommends that:

- children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups
- there should be no more than 15 children per small group
- break times and lunch times should be staggered
- drop off and pick up times should be staggered in order to minimise adult to adult contact
- play equipment is cleaned between groups of children using it
- soft furnishings, soft toys, toys and equipment that are hard to clean are removed from classrooms

We are currently considering the implications of this guidance and the potential impact on children, their mental health and emotional wellbeing, particularly as it is likely that children may not be in their usual classroom with their regular teacher due to the restrictions and safety measures which will need to be put in place.

I am currently consulting with staff members and would like to seek your views as part of our risk assessment process. I am therefore inviting you to complete the questionnaire which can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GGQ2ZTL>

Today is National 'Thank a Teacher Day' and I am sure you will want to join me in thanking each and every member of the Torridon school staff for the fantastic job they are all doing to support our children in these uncertain times. I will continue to update you on a possible date of return for a greater number of children and, in the meantime, I would like to thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. The entire Torridon community has been exceptional in these very difficult and challenging circumstances and we will continue to work together to ensure the best outcomes for our children and families.

Please stay safe and well.

Best wishes



Manda George
Headteacher