



12/06/20

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are all well. It has been lovely talking to many of you on the phone over the past few weeks and seeing some of you back in school. As a community, you have been amazing: so supportive, understanding and positive. You have remained committed to supporting your children at home with their learning throughout. We really appreciate this and know it isn't always easy. As a staff, we feel incredibly proud of our community, have really valued your support and want to say a huge thank you to you all.

I want to update you on the current situation in school.

A few weeks ago, the government announced that schools could start to re-open to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as long as we were able to follow certain guidelines. These included keeping children in 'bubbles' of no more than 15 and ensuring that these bubbles did not mix with other children in other 'bubbles'. Alongside this, we needed to put in place stringent processes around hygiene, handwashing and keeping equipment clean. Children remain in playground zones when outside, they have staggered start and finish times and children eat together in small groups at lunchtime. The changes to school life have been significant. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure we have minimised risk as much as we can and to adjust to new ways of doing things. It is challenging and very different but we remain positive and hope that we will see more of our children back in school over the next few weeks and months.

Over the past two weeks, we have welcomed back some children to Reception, Year 1 and Y6. Although the number of children who have returned is low, the children who have come back have settled quickly into our 'new normal' and seem happy to be back. They do miss their friends who have not yet returned but have adapted well to new routines. Staff have loved having them back and although school feels much quieter than normal, it is starting to feel more like school again!

We will start to re-open to children in Nursery on the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June, starting first with the children of key workers. We will be sending out a letter explaining what the arrangements will be for starting back, early next week.

Moving forward, we had hoped that some of our other classes could return to school before the end of the school year. However, this now looks less likely. The challenge for schools across the country is that we are not able to have more than 15 children in a class. Schools do not have the space or the teachers to manage two groups of 15. Until these changes, schools will not be able to open up to all year groups.

We have a small number of spaces currently reserved in each bubble for children of key workers. If you think you might be a key worker and need a space for your child in school, please contact us as soon as possible on [admin@springfield.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@springfield.hackney.sch.uk). You will need to provide a letter from your employer outlining your status as a key worker. Please use the link below to check if you are eligible:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you are unable to get a letter from your employer, please get in touch and we will see what we can do to help.

We do understand that some of you will be disappointed that your child may not be able to return to school until September. We also know that your child may also be upset about not seeing their friends and teachers until the autumn term. We will continue to keep in touch with you and your child over the next few weeks and hope that your child continues to engage in home learning. Try where possible to continue to follow a routine and to ensure they continue to do some schoolwork every day. At the same time, if your day does not go to plan, try not to worry.

Please do contact us if you have any questions or worries or if you want to talk to us about your own personal circumstances. Please do let us know if you are facing particular hardship or are at risk of losing your job because your child is not yet able to return to school. We may be able to help in some way.

We will be in touch if anything changes over the next few weeks and continue to follow government guidelines.

Thank you for your continued support

Best wishes

Fiona

Headteacher

