



ASH CARTWRIGHT & KELSEY

Church of England (AIDED) Primary School

Through God's love and strength all flourish

Our Christian vision guides our journey to provide a rich, well-rounded education enabling all to become the very best that God intended. We treat adults and pupils with love and dignity in a space where Christian values are developed and everyone can flourish.

community, friendship, joy, forgiveness, perseverance, creation

19th May 2020

Dear parents/carers

How are you all doing? I hope you are keeping well – please remember that the school is open every day if you need any help or support, and be assured that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

The first duty of school leaders is to the safety of the children in school, staff and the wider community. We all want schools to be able to open more widely – but only when it is safe to do so. No doubt you will be aware of the media hype around this issue and will have your own thoughts and opinions. As a school, we can put in place all reasonable measures to deter pupils from having contact with each other, and limit the children they come into contact with, but we cannot expect the children, especially our youngest children, to socially distance. At the moment, uniquely it appears, that school staff and pupils will not be protected by social distancing rules, because we are being instructed, by government and DFE that these can be relaxed. In all of this we have to consider pupils' mental and spiritual health as well as their physical health. We have been busy in school conducting risk assessments, taking into account guidance from the government and the DFE. The latest guidance highlights that headteachers and governors need to make the best decisions they can for their own school and should focus first on providing places for priority groups of all year groups. That is what we are going to do and have been doing since the closure. As it stands today, we will not be extending our opening for nursery, year R and year 1 from the 1st June – we currently do not feel this is safe for our school. We have created a KS1 and a KS2 'bubble' for pupils of keyworkers and our vulnerable pupils, and will be able to offer a maximum of 15 spaces in each of these classes i.e. 30 in total. *Please do ring the school if you would like to discuss the possibility of your child attending.*

We will be updating our risk assessments weekly and will let you know if the situation changes. It is worth noting that the government will not be making a final decision on the wider opening of schools until the 28th May 2020. We are considering how we can cater safely for our year 6 pupils before the end of term and we will keep you updated as plans for this evolve.

We will continue to provide the home learning on the school website and as far as I know the FSM vouchers will continue as usual.

We are sorry that we cannot provide clearer and more precise plans – it is a confusing time to be a school leader with lots of mixed messages from scientific and medical sources and continually changing information and guidance. Please be assured that the welfare and safety of our pupils, staff and wider community is of paramount importance.

Best wishes

Fiona Crascall (Headteacher)

Nick Hassall (Chair of Governors) and Dr William Vennart (Vice Chair of Governors)

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