

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all well. On Tuesday morning, there was a government meeting to discuss further the plan for wider school opening. I wanted to write to you following this meeting and the Government's subsequent announcement regarding children coming in to schools for the remainder of this term. This message will replace our usual weekly newsletter.

Wider School Opening

After the morning's meeting Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, announced their plan had changed. The original plan for all primary children to return to school a month before the summer break had been dropped. He told the House of Commons that there was a 'cautious, phased return' to school - but that would no longer mean all primary year groups going back before the end of term.

I speak for all of the staff when I say that we are missing seeing all of our HCIS children and if we could welcome them all back in to school under the new safety guidelines we certainly would. Regrettably, we cannot do this due to the capacity of our school size and because some of our teaching staff are unable to be in school. In accordance with the government guidelines, YR has been coming to school in their small 'bubble' groups over the past two weeks. We have continued to open every day for our key worker 'bubble' group.

The rest of our children will stay at home before the summer break, utilising the home learning that is being set by our teachers.

Y2 Transition

We have been working closely with the Junior School to plan a transition for our Y2 children and over the coming weeks, further information about this will be sent to you. As you will know, we have already written to you as part of this transition plan asking which three children your child effectively learns with. Unfortunately, the leavers' celebrations will look quite different this year and sadly we will be unable to organise the events that usually take place.

However, it is my intention to invite the Y2 children into school for one day each in the last week before we break for the Summer. The children will be put into small 'bubble' groups so they have an opportunity to celebrate in a way before leaving for their next adventure. We felt that this was an important part of the transition process and gave the children and parents a special farewell where everything else is impossible. Further information will be sent to you separately.

Some Facts and Figures

We have been reviewing some facts and figures sent by Bucks Council as well as those published by the BBC. [BBC Website](#)

70% of UK primary schools have opened this week, 73% of Bucks primary schools are open. Schools are open with 35% of Y6 pupils, 25% of Y1 pupils and 30% of YR pupils in school.

The BBC have reported that of the children about a quarter of primary children took up places, three quarters are still at home.

- 52% of primary schools opened for extra pupils
- 11% of primary pupils were in school - about a quarter of those year groups who could have gone back
- 659,000 children were in all schools, including children of key workers, almost 7% who would normally attend, up from 2.6% before half term

Future Planning

The Bucks Primary Education Board have informed schools that the DfE are looking into solutions for increasing teaching space capacity via different methods. However, there would also be a requirement to increase the teaching staff resources to cover the additional groups in these areas. This Board is currently consulting schools on the wider opening in September in preparation for their next meeting. Options include part-time attendance.

As we have seen, this situation remains uncertain with plans changing each day. I will continue to keep a close eye on the daily developments and keep you informed as much as I can and know at the time.