



St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School
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Mrs D L Thompson/ Miss M Davidson
Co-Head Teachers

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Decision on the possible reopening in June

We hope that you and your family are continuing to stay safe and we thank you for your patience at this uncertain time. We wrote to you on 14th May to inform you that we were looking at government guidance and considering what a phased return might look like in our school, assessing the risks involved for our children, staff and community.

Over the past week, teachers have been telephoning home and we appreciate that many parents are concerned about their child potentially returning to school. We have received feedback that many parents of younger children do not feel that it would be safe for their child to return to school. We have conducted a thorough risk assessment and reviewed the resources available to us and looked at which year groups can be managed with the lowest risk. To ensure that social distancing is achievable at all times, the children will require dividing up into much smaller groups than their class group and this will require more staff. We also have fewer staff available to work as some are clinically vulnerable/shielding and we still need sufficient staff to run the Emergency Childcare Provision safely. The government acknowledges that it is very difficult for younger children to socially distance and there is currently no scientific evidence that it is safe for younger children to be together. We believe that we cannot provide quality education for the younger children as the way that they learn is through many practical activities. This will be extremely compromised due to the limited resources they would be allowed to use and the lack of space- this could have a detrimental effect on their love of learning. Therefore, Governors and Leaders have taken the difficult decision that we can only adequately staff one year group and have chosen the year group that would be the safest to manage and maintain social distancing.

Year 6 children are old enough to understand and comply with social distancing requirements in order to protect themselves, other children and staff. Taking account of every safety factor, we will be asking **Year 6 pupils ONLY to return to school in June** when the government confirms that schools are to reopen. **We will NOT be reopening to children in the following year groups until further notice: R, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.** However, home learning (Google Classroom) will continue to be provided for anyone who is not in school.

Our Emergency Childcare Provision for YR to Y6 children of critical key workers and for vulnerable children will still be open and will continue to operate through emailing enquiries@standrewsceva.uk or completing the contact form on the school website: www.standrews.northants.sch.uk If you think that your child/ren may be eligible for this provision, please contact us for an application form.

As we stated in our previous letter, any return to school must be safe, measured and carefully managed. **We would like to reassure you keeping children and staff safe is our utmost priority.** DfE's guidance on [implementing protective measures in education and childcare](#) settings contains detailed advice for schools to follow on:

- cleaning, including supplies of cleaning and handwashing products
- testing and tracing
- PPE (personal protective equipment)
- what settings should do in response to a case of coronavirus being confirmed

The parents of Year 6 children and children who attend the ECP will be receiving a separate letter detailing all of the safety measures and expectations that are in place. **This information will need to be read carefully and shared with your child before they return.** If you have any concerns or questions after

reading this information, please contact us through emailing enquiries@standrewsceva.uk or completing the contact form on the school website: www.standrews.northants.sch.uk Our Covid-19 Risk Assessment is also available to view on our school website.

As soon as we have any update on the possible return of other year groups before the end of the Summer term, we will contact you with all of the details. If you require any help with your child's home learning, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We thank you for your cooperation and working with us at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. Thompson/ Miss. M. Davidson
Co-Head Teachers

Mr. P. Lightfoot
Chair of Governors