



Headteacher: Helen Elphick B.A., M.A.

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are well. I am sure many of you watched the Prime Minister on television on Sunday night as he outlined his plans for lifting the current lockdown arrangements. One of the areas he announced was that some primary children may be back at school on 1st June and some secondary pupils from July as part of a 'phased return' to school.

Yesterday more details around this emerged with guidance saying "special schools will work towards a phased return of more children / young people without a focus on specific year groups."

I am sure with time, more details will emerge as further discussions take place both at Government and County level. As a school community we very much want all the children to be able to return to school, but this will only be done when it is safe for both our staff and your children. As a special school we must consider the particular concerns we have around the needs of our children and that we are unable to socially distance.

Keeping this in mind and as a starting place, teachers will be asking, during their phone conversations with you over the next couple of weeks, whether you would like your child to return to school before September, or whether you will continue to be shielding. There will be no repercussions if this is the case.

It is likely that classes will need to be smaller in order to keep the risks as low as we can and so teachers will also be asking whether you would like to send your child in, even if they are only able to attend for two days a week.

This information will help us to build a picture of how we can manage a phased return over the coming weeks. As I have more information and can develop a plan of how to move forward, I will keep you informed.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Elphick".

Helen Elphick  
Headteacher