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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well and are coping with the current situation.

I am writing to you following the announcement by the Government regarding the phased reopening of Northlew C of E Primary School, which could begin from Monday 1st June 2020 at the earliest. This would be for children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** in addition to the children of **Key Workers and vulnerable pupils** across all year groups which are already accessing provision.

As a parent, you will have to decide whether you feel it is right to send your child back to school when it reopens. To make this decision it is vital that you understand what we as a school community are being asked to do by the Government, which will enable you to decide what is right for you and your family. The decision will be yours and we will respect that decision. There will be no penalties for non-attendance and if you choose to send your child to school, we will be delighted to see them.

Please see the information below based on the guidance from the Government, which we must all follow. We would ask that you please read it carefully and consider how this would apply to you and your child(ren).

You should be aware that the school will be very different to how you left it before lockdown; we hope that this will not be the case for too long. Please also note that we are unable to offer any Breakfast Clubs or after school provision under the current guidelines.

The Facts

- The school is preparing to reopen for children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** and will continue to remain open for the children of **Key Workers and vulnerable pupils** across all year groups.
- The target date for reopening is **01.06.2020**, but this may be postponed.
- Reopening is dependent upon the government's 5 tests being met, including a reduction in the infection rate nationally.

Safety Measures

- Due to the limited number of classroom spaces available and measures to keep children apart as much as possible (the Government acknowledge that social distancing is extremely challenging for young children) the total number of children that Northlew School can accommodate at any one time will be limited to six children across the whole school.
- Children cannot attend if they or anyone in their household are displaying symptoms.
- There will be limited contact between children and one or two adults.
- We will be adapting the classroom environment to facilitate social distancing and cleaning protocol.

- We will promote good hygiene such as hand washing, sanitising and use of tissues etc.
- We will carry out regular and thorough cleaning of all occupied areas and equipment.
- We will immediately isolate anyone displaying symptoms and send them home.

Groupings

- Your child will be in a small group of up to 5 children with an adult. Your child's group may be led by a teacher or a teaching assistant. We will endeavour to keep the same members of staff with the same group until the summer holidays, but it may have to be a member of staff that your child has not worked with before.
- Your child's group will be allocated a specific room within the school building. It will not necessarily be one that they are familiar with.
- Your child's group will not mix with other groups at all.
- As far as possible, your child will remain in their allocated room for the entire day, apart from access to outside breaks and outside learning, where your child's group will be segregated from the other groups.

What will provision look like?

- Your child's learning may be limited and not necessarily cover the full curriculum. Learning will be based on the online programmes that will still be in place for those who continue to learn at home.
- Your child's allocated classroom will be minimally furnished and equipped with no soft furnishings. Soft toys will be removed from classrooms and any toys and equipment that are difficult or time consuming to clean after every use will also be removed.
- Equipment will be restricted, as it cannot be moved between groups. Tables will seat one child and will be spaced 2m apart from other tables.
- No equipment, including reading books, will be sent home. Equipment (such as pencil cases) and toys must not come in to school from home.
- Your child may possibly eat lunch in their allocated room, or in another designated room on a staggered basis ensuring that groups do not mix.
- A packed lunch will be required unless your child is eligible for free school meals, in which case a packed lunch will be provided.

Drop off and Pick up

- Measures will be put into place such as social distancing floor markings, a one-way system and possibly staggered arrival and departure times to prevent groups congregating.
- One adult only must accompany your child and it may not be possible for you to bring other children with you.
- Adults will not be allowed into the building.
- Face-to-face adult-to-adult contact between parents/carers and the school staff will be discouraged.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The Government guidance states that masks are not considered to be suitable for use in schools.
- Staff will wear PPE when supervising a child who begins to display symptoms or where social distancing is not possible.

Suspected and Confirmed cases of Coronavirus

- In the event of a child or adult within your child's allocated group falling ill with virus-like symptoms, they must not attend the school for seven days to self-isolate.
- Parents should arrange for their children to be tested if they show virus symptoms.
- In the event of a confirmed case within the group, all of the group including your child and the adult leaders will be required to isolate for 14 days.

I urge you to read the complete Government advice. Link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Whilst the above measures may sound very austere and unfriendly, we must all follow the guidelines for the safety of children, staff and family members at home. Please be assured that every member of staff at Northlew will do their very best to make sure that your child is happy and well cared for. We, like you, want our school to be able to return to the happy, vibrant learning environment that it was just a few short weeks ago.

What next?

The school leaders and governors now need to plan and prepare thoroughly for a safe reopening. To enable us to do this effectively we need to know how many of our children we can expect.

Parents of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, should contact the school Administrator using the school email below by **Monday 18th May** and indicate whether you require a place or not so that we know how many children we need to plan for.

admin@northlew.devon.sch.uk

If you do not respond, we will assume that you are aiming for your child to return to school in September 2020. Please remember that the choice is yours to make, and everyone at Northlew C of E Primary will support you no matter how you decide.

Thank you all for your continued support, if you have any questions please email them to the school email address and we will do all that we can to help.

Kind regards



Head of School