

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We have enjoyed having half of our children back in school since June 29th and the children have enjoyed reconnecting with friends, getting back into routines and picking up their learning. Thank you for supporting your child's return and the kind comments you have shared.

As you will no doubt know, the government released their '[Guidance for Full Opening – Schools](#)' document a couple of weeks ago. Since then, we have been working hard to plan and organise the best way to bring **all** of our children back to school on Wednesday 2nd September following all the guidance to minimise the risk. Our plans in school have now been discussed with and supported by our governing body. This letter and the accompanying booklet aims to give you the information you need so that you feel prepared for the return to school.

Why has the decision been made by the government?

Schools initially closed to all but a small number of children with the aim of reducing the transmission of coronavirus, protecting the NHS and saving lives. As the situation has improved, more and more children have been invited back to school.

Now, the circumstances have changed. The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and we are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within school.

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's development. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school.

Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus.

System of Controls – Protective Measures

Carville Primary School has an extensive Covid-19 Risk Assessment, which can be viewed on the website. This has been written and regularly reviewed to minimise the risk to



children, staff and families. A 'System of Controls' is in place that highlight the actions recommended by Public Health England and the government when we reopen. These are in two sections:

Prevention:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- 7) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 9) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

The information and instructions in this letter and the accompanying booklet are all being put in place so that we can meet the 'prevention and response' measures and keep everyone in our Carville Family safe.

If you have any questions or comments after reading them, please contact us at school.

Once again, thank you all for your amazing response during the lockdown period and all of your kind words and messages of support. It has certainly been a challenge, but we have enjoyed reaching out to you at home to make sure you have felt connected to and supported by your school. Together our Carville Family is strong.

Have an amazing Summer holiday as we enjoy the wider opening of shops, parks and public services. We look forward to welcoming everybody back on Wednesday 2nd September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Harker
Headteacher



You can find all of the reopening information on the website:

<https://www.carvilleprimary.co.uk/coronavirus-reopening>