



Rednal Hill Junior School

Together we can turn possibility into reality

Headteacher: Mr. R Jones

Irwin Avenue, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8QY

Tel: 0121-453 2520 Fax: 0121-457 9359

www.rednalhilljuniors.com

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday night we received further guidance from the government regarding the opening of schools from week beginning 1st June 2020 for Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6. The guidance sets out clear criteria for how schools are expected to open whilst also attempting to maintain clear protocols on social distancing. Our school team have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we are able to meet the guidance to the best of our ability and operate in the safest way possible.

Please rest assured that we are doing everything in our power to make school as safe as possible for the return of your child. We care about each and every child within school and so the safety of our children and also staff is of paramount importance. Over the last month we have all become accustomed to social distancing measures and how we operate in public spaces whether this is when we are out shopping or exercising in the local park - it has taken some getting used to (even for us adults) but it is now the new normal. As you can imagine, explaining the concept of social distancing to children is the easy part, keeping consistency in this matter is far more problematic- be assured we are aiming to do our very best but it is also important that you know the reality of what we are planning to achieve in this area. We propose to:

- create smaller class sizes;
- depending on numbers, alter the start and end times of the day to keep children, parents and staff socially distanced and safe;
- limit interaction on the playground;
- buddy-up children to key support staff;
- increase the frequency of classroom cleaning;
- depending on numbers and social distancing compliance, continue to run before and after school club;
- build in additional opportunities for hand washing
- and many, many other elements to help keep everyone safe.

We are aiming to do all of this whilst also making your child's happiness and wellbeing our number one priority. We want them to come to school and enjoy being with us - we don't want them to be fearful or scared. We simply want them to be children and to be as carefree as possible.

Our intention is to do all of the above but please understand that we are in the profession of dealing with children. There is a huge wealth of experience at school and so we understand what is and isn't possible. It is possible that we reduce the risk of the virus spreading amongst the school community by closely following the government guidance but it is

impossible to eliminate the risk altogether. There will be times, naturally, when children do get close to each other, they may pass something they have found on the playground to a friend and, on the odd occasion, they may even hug each other involuntarily because ultimately, that is what children do - they play and interact with one another. We are going to do our very best to provide social distancing at school and to help the children understand how they can stay safe and still enjoy learning but please remember that we are dealing with children and there will be times when they forget the boundaries.

In helping us plan for the re-opening of Year 6 we ask that you complete a short survey in order to help us prepare in the best possible way for the potential opening during week beginning 1st June 2020. **It is vital that this survey is completed by EVERY parent with a child in Y6. You can find the survey [here](#) and it will take only two minutes to complete. We ask that you complete this survey as soon as you read this letter and by NO LATER than 6pm on Thursday 14th May 2020.** Following the survey results, and after further planning, we will be in a position to write to you next week with more information. If you haven't seen it yet, we would encourage you to read the government guidance for parents - you can find this [here](#).

If you say 'NO' to your child returning in your form response this week, we will require 48 hours' notice should you wish them to take up their place at any point in the future.

Please note, the DfE have stated "While we are strongly encouraging children in eligible groups to attend, we will not penalise people for keeping their children at home. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels."

Thank you for your ongoing support at these difficult times.

Stay safe and well.

Mr. Jones

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr. Jones'.

Headteacher