



Huyton with Roby C.E. Primary School
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Mrs. J Stratford – Headteacher

18th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

At Huyton with Roby School, we want to get children back into education as soon as possible. However, this can only be done once we are assured that educational settings are as safe as they possibly can be for children and staff. At the moment we have children in school from key worker families and some other groups. Although we do not yet know exactly when we will be reopening to more children, this is what we have decided so far.

In common with most other schools in Central Area Knowsley, we will be closed to all children for one week of the two week half term holiday, **that is from Monday 25 May till Friday 29 May**. This is so we can plan the next step in reopening very carefully. **KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN AND OUR STAFF SAFE FROM CORONAVIRUS IN SCHOOL IS OUR TOP PRIORITY**. We will be open for the second week of the half term holiday for the children of key workers and vulnerable groups. This second week is from 1st June to the 5th June.

When we do allow more pupils in school, we will open up one year group at a time. **The first year group to come back will be YEAR 6**. This is because we believe our oldest pupils can best listen and follow our safety rules in school. We will be able to assess and if necessary adjust safety measures before we open up further. We will give you **AT LEAST 10 DAYS' NOTICE** telling you when your child can come back to school. This is so you can prepare your child for return and ask us any questions.

If you require a place for your child because you are a key worker and have not already been taking a place up at school – please email the school with your name, your contact number, your child's name and class, evidence of your key worker status and which days you require the place for.

If you require a place for your child because they are in Year 6, please email the school with your name, your contact number and your child's name and class.

The Government have made clear that schools will only open if the five tests they have stipulated have been met. These five tests are:

1. Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are **able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment** right across the UK.
2. See a **sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates** from COVID-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak.
3. Reliable data from SAGE showing that **the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels** across the board.
4. Be confident that **the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand**, with supply able to meet future demand.
5. Be confident that **any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections** that overwhelms the NHS.

Schools received this information on May 10 2020 and we immediately began to consider our plans as, like yourselves, we want nothing more than to have children back in school learning and socialising with their friends. The government has produced numerous documents detailing the actions schools will have to take prior to increased numbers of children returning and, as you can imagine, we have a number of challenges to overcome over the coming weeks if we are to gradually re-open our school. For this

reason, we will not be in a position to open until June 8 at the very earliest. (This will be confirmed nearer the time)

We are working with LDST, Local Authorities, our school staff, our specialist health and safety advisors and Unions to work towards a safe and gradual re-opening for children, families and staff. We are undertaking a risk assessment and consulting to ensure that our re-opening plan puts the safety of our children, families and staff first and identifies measures that will achieve this. Once our risk assessment has been carried out, we will communicate the next steps with you.

Some of these measures may include:

- reduced class sizes to adhere to social distancing.
- children to remain in the same group at all times with no mixing
- children to have the same teacher(s) all the time
- increased hand washing facilities
- separate entry and exit points
- no parents / carers allowed on site
- one way systems to be established in schools
- reduced timetable / flexible days / staggered start & finish times
- home schooling resources to continue to be available
- desks to be positioned 2m apart if possible
- soft furnishings / toys to be removed from Nursery / Reception / other classrooms
- toys and equipment not to be shared
- small equipment which cannot be easily cleaned must not be used
- staggered breaktimes with no mixing of groups
- additional cleaning throughout the day and week

Normally, school is the best place for a child to be. They should be learning and living happily with their schoolmates and staff. However, **NO PARENT WILL BE PENALISED FOR NOT SENDING THEIR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE STILL WORRIED ABOUT THE RISK OF COVID-19, TO THEM OR SOMEONE IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD.**

I would like to thank all our families for being so supportive and patient during these most difficult times. Those of you with children at home have done a fantastic job in using our home learning packs. The teachers are so grateful because it means our children will be still ready to learn when they return.

As our school responds to the gradual easing of lockdown, we will be releasing a lot more information. It is very important that you keep checking for texts/dojos from us as well as news items on our website. National guidance for parents can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Kind Regards,

J. Stratford

(Headteacher)