

Crowmoor Primary School & Nursery

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**Headteacher: Mr A J Parkhurst JP**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Parkhurst**

**School Business Manager: Miss H Cave**



21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following a virtual Governors meeting on the 20th May, the full Governing Body has taken the decision that Crowmoor **cannot** safely re-open on the 1st June, other than to the identified group of vulnerable children and the children of key workers as per the status quo.

We have not taken this decision lightly! It has been based on up to date scientific advice. Dame Angela McLean, the Governments Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor stated that, the easing of social distancing measures, vital in a school environment is reliant on a 'highly effective track, trace and isolate system.' Niall Dickinson Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation said "This is about saving lives and protecting the NHS: if we do not set up the right system, involving local agencies, we will put patients and NHS staff at risk." As yet, the government has not been able to implement such a system! The Governors believe that the risk to pupils, staff and the wider community is too great to take.

The Governors were also cognisant of the impact on the emotional welfare of Crowmoor's children that the necessary restrictions placed on them to minimise the risk of the COVID 19 virus could be. Children particularly those in the Early Years need physical play and interaction, something that would be impossible under current restrictions. Toys, books and outdoor play equipment will all not be available to be used.

We are very worried about the emotional health and well-being of any children returning to school. An environment that should feel safe, secure and welcoming to all pupils will instead see staff wearing masks/face coverings. Desks will be spaced 2 metres apart; there will also be no movement around the classroom for any age group. Groups within school will not mix with other groups of children in order to maintain bubbles. There will be no access to the toilet until children from another group have exited, being placed in different classrooms with staff they do not usually work with, those adults unable to comfort them directly if they get upset without full PPE. The children will not be following the normal curriculum and books will be unable to be marked, children being required to mark work under the direction of an adult.

All of these things create the danger of children feeling distressed rather than enjoying the experience of school. Children have windows of development, the imposed restrictions could create trauma for the children that could take years to eradicate. This is not acceptable under our duty of care to your children. Mr Parkhurst and I will be in daily contact, listening for and responding to, local, national and scientific advice, as and when it is disseminated and will respond accordingly. Formally reviewing our risk assessment each week.

Parents will be informed with immediacy of the changing circumstances!



Thank you for your forbearance on this matter. The Governing body gives the highest priority to the safety and welfare of your children, their wider families and all staff, teaching and non-teaching at this most difficult and unique of times.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Wasdell  
Chair of Governors



