



Friday 15th May 2020

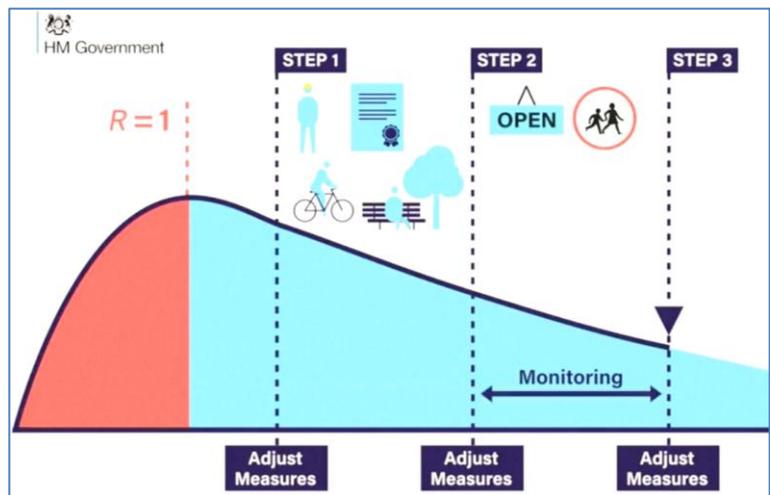
Dear Parents/Carers

A wonderful VE Day Bank Holiday provided some Tea-Cup Competition entries – thank you ☺. I am pleased to announce, following ‘virtual voting’, our winner is **Alice!** I will drop off a little prize soon (please note: hands will be washed and social distancing will be observed).



The weekend culminated with a long-awaited parliamentary announcement. Obviously, due to this there have been several communications from school this week owing to the potential wider-opening of schools from the 1st June for Early Years, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. I am sure that everyone is interested in what is happening.

This has come with a huge amount of guidance material to collate to implement this change and some decision-making for the families of the selected year groups. I know how difficult this is to do – balancing so many aspects of what is the right thing to do emotionally, socially, academically, financially.



The responses are heavily weighted in **in-decision** at this stage. I know families will be watching the R-rate carefully and weighing up the risk of a term in school

against the continuation of remote learning. The outcome of the return as part of ‘Step 2’ of the Five Step Plan will then determine if more year groups can come back and in what format.

Unfortunately, I will **need** a firm decision next week in order to provide the final details and arrangements for families and for staff. The numbers in groups will enable us to decide how we can provide wider-opening and for how many days per week.

Our potential return to school will be to a ‘different school’ in order to manage the increase of numbers under the need to strictly adhere to social distancing and hygiene expectations which will serve to mitigate against risk ...

All groups of children will form 'bubbles' and will enter and exit the school site via separate routes, with separate waiting areas and social distancing markers inside and out.

Areas will be separated for outdoor learning spaces and classrooms will be arranged with 2m spaced seating throughout.

Access to communal areas will be minimised, will operate with 2m markers and be separated to create one-way travel.

All equipment and toys will be removed for child initiated accessibility and equipment will be per-child and disinfected.

Cleaning will take place throughout the day and 'bubbles' will stay in their allocated room with their allocated member of staff (this may not be their usual classroom or may not be their teacher/TA/Key Worker).

Work will follow a similar format to the remote learning and project overviews, timetabled throughout the day, making use of outside activities to allow time to ventilate the rooms.

Packed lunches will be required and be eaten in allocated room/space.

'Bubbles' will not be able to mix – spaces around the school will be timetabled.

As you can see, it will be a very different experience. Nevertheless, at the forefront of what we do, will be activities to support children's well-being and the continuation to care and warmth within the circumstances we will be faced with.

Based on all of this, I hope to resume a round of catch-up calls starting from next week. These will start with the families with children in the selected year groups so that we can plan for the next step.

Please be assured that I will do my best to distribute the plan as soon as possible and will keep the whole school informed of what June 1st will look like. Keep checking emails and Dojo to keep up to date.

I have been emotionally overwhelmed by the kindness of parental comments as we navigate uncharted times and would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Well, what a week ... but together 'we will get through this'.

Best wishes
Hayley Adams

