



Keyworth Primary School

Part of the Bessemer and Keyworth Federation

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Executive Headteacher: Sarah Beard

Head of School: Ray Capper

Thursday 18th June 2020

Final opportunity for children to return to school before the summer holidays

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may well have seen in the news that the government has reversed its initial announcement that all year groups should return before the summer holidays, meaning that schools do not need to make arrangements for children in years 2-5 to return before September. You will know that from the 2nd June Keyworth offered immediate school provision to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6, and for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children, rather than a phased return over many weeks. Many other Southwark schools have yet to do this and will be continuing to expand their provision for these year groups through to July.

The government has also recently announced the following:

“We know that in some schools, there will be capacity to welcome more children back, in group sizes of no more than 15, before the summer holidays. This may be because take-up amongst eligible children is lower than expected, or because there is additional space still available within the school and available staff to teach and supervise. There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.”

At Keyworth, we currently have around 90 children in school each day, which is one of the largest totals of children in school in the whole of Southwark. Many families of children in years 2-5 have contacted us to ask whether we have space for their child/children to return to school. There is no obligation for Keyworth to do any more than we are already doing, however we have thought carefully about our risk assessment, staff availability and the capacity in terms of the school site and we feel that **we may be able to invite children back from all year groups across the school**. This means that if your child is in years 2-5, we are considering offering our families the opportunity for their child/children to return to school from **Monday 29th June**. A key consideration in this has been the fact that by September many children will not have been in school for 6 months. Additionally, we feel that we have the capacity to safely provide social and emotional support, as well as academic support to a larger group of children.

In order for us to ensure that our plan will work we will need parents/carers of children who are not already in school to know the following:

- **If your child does not return to Keyworth from the 29th June, there will be no further opportunities for them to do so before September.** This applies to all year groups including Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We are going to need to be very strict on this as, for the plan to be successful, we will be at full capacity in terms of staffing and space;

- Parents/carers will need to contact the school via telephone or email to confirm that they would like their child/children to be considered for a return to school with a **deadline of Monday 22nd June at 3:00pm. By doing so, it does not mean your child definitely has a place and we will contact you again next week to confirm.** Again, if you have not responded by this deadline, your child/children will not be able to return to Keyworth before September;
- If a parent/carer says that their child/children will be returning, then they should not change their mind as they will be preventing us from offering a place to another child.

As soon as we have confirmation of numbers, the senior leaders will create a plan. **It may not be possible for all year groups to return depending on the uptake** but we want to gauge the interest of our families. Next week, I will send confirmation of the decisions that we have made and provide further details about the possibility of more children returning.

If you have any queries/questions, please contact the school office.

Kind regards,

Ray Capper

Head of School