

LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Dear Parents,

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the issue with the school website this weekend. We are working on resolving the issue, and hope to resume normal service very soon.

I am sure that you will have listened to the Prime Minister's announcement last night regarding a *possible* phased return to school. "If we as a nation begin to fulfil the conditions I have set out, then in the next few weeks and months, we may be able to go further. In step two at the earliest by June 1st after half term, we believe we *may* be in a position to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with reception, year 1 and year 6." I appreciate that this, very cautious, announcement raised more questions than it actually answered. What is clear, however, is that *at the moment, we simply continue as we are*. The proposed return to school is still not guaranteed, and is clearly dependent on a number of factors outside our control.

As with previous announcements, we as school leaders only heard this at the same time as the rest of the population. As I am sure you can imagine, we, along with teaching unions and other groups, are very keen to have further clarification from the Government about what this proposed return will actually entail, and we are looking forward to receiving clear guidance later today. I shall update you over the coming days and weeks with information about what the proposed phased return will actually mean for us here at Leybourne.

We are all keen to return to school as fully as possible, as soon as possible, and have been considering the implications of a phased return for a while. However, this cannot, and will not, be at the risk to anyone's safety – pupil, parent or staff member.

Over the coming weeks, we shall be seeking to reduce the possible risks of increasing the number of children and staff in school as much as we can, accepting that this may well impact on our ability to fully implement the return as described yesterday. Whilst children are not considered to be especially susceptible to the virus, their role in spreading it is as yet unknown. Even at the best of times, they are wonderfully generous sharers of such delights as headlice and colds!

Children are, by and large, social creatures. Young children, such as Reception and Year 1, are incredibly tactile and delightfully unaware of personal space! Social distancing in a primary school setting is a challenge that we will be giving careful consideration to as we plan a possible phased return.

**We promote the learning and development of all children to achieve their full potential
in a caring, happy Christian environment**



I am aware that, following weeks of being told to “Stay home”, suddenly proposing to put three classes back into school, along with the dozen or so children we have had in school over this period, seems quite daunting, and not without risk. Please be assured that I fully appreciate this, and, as always, will do all I can to keep your children safe. Before asking you to send your children back to school, I shall give you clear information about the steps we will be taking to protect them and the environment they will be returning to.

When the time comes, we shall also work with you, and the children, to prepare them for returning to school. Whilst I know that for some, this cannot come quickly enough, I also realise that the transition back into school will be extremely challenging for other families. We will be here to support you through this.

As always, thank you so much for your support during this time. Please do take care, and stay safe.

Kind regards

Tina Holditch