DATE: Friday 15th May 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update 14.5.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all continuing to stay safe.

At Brady, we want to see our school full and our children returning to life in all it’s fullness as soon as it is safe to do so. The safety of our children, families and staff is of the utmost importance to us, particularly at this challenging time.

I am sure that you have seen the Government guidance published on 11th May which outlines the expectation that schools in England will partially reopen on a phased basis from 1st June 2020. At Brady we will be using this guidance, along with Local Authority guidance to plan for the phased reopening of the school.

The Government have set out an ambition that:

* Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and year 6 will begin a phased return to school from 1st June 2020.
* Primary schools may work towards the possibility of other year groups returning from July 2020 for the ‘last month of the school year’. This will only happen if the scientific evidence indicates that it is safe to have larger numbers of children in school.
* Priority groups such as children of critical workers and vulnerable children will continue to attend school as they have done for the past weeks.

Although this information only applies to parents of children in these three year groups, I am sending it to all parents so everyone is aware of the current situation in school.

I have said right from the beginning that as soon as I had any information to share, I would do and I want to be totally honest as I have been all the way through this challenging time.

As a school we will be taking the recommended steps to:

* reduce the size of the classes
* stagger drop off/pick up arrangements
* stagger lunch and playtimes
* increase the frequency of cleaning
* reduce the shared resources used by our children

However, the guidance recognise that in schools it will be impossible to ensure that children stay 2 metres apart from each other, children will inevitably find it hard to socially distance when they see their friends and teachers who they have not seen for a period of time.

 The government are asking for classes of 15. I measured the classrooms myself yesterday and if we applied the 2 metre rule then most classrooms would only be able to accommodate 8-12 children depending on age.

The guidance also states that the children and teacher should remain in their ‘group’ of 15 each day and on subsequent days – this means that in a normal class of 30, half the class will be with a different teacher and potentially not with their friends. It will not be possible to swap teachers between days due to the risks.

As children cannot swap between these groups we would be unable to run any form of Breakfast Club or After School Club facility.

There will be no PE lessons as we will be unable to wash down the equipment between each group using it, and the younger children would not be able to receive help to get changed.

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the survey for the required year groups. Can I please ask those of you who have not to do this if you possibly can.

This information will enable us to have an idea of the number of children we may be expecting from 1st June. I am hopeful that a full plan of how the provision will work will be with you by the end of next week, however it is not finalised at this time as it is still under discussion with the Local Authority and will depend on the number of pupils returning and the number of staff we have available in order to reopen the school safely.

In summary:-

* The safest place for your child continues to be at home.
* Children who are in the clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable group should remain at home as this is the safest option.
* Pupils will be in groups of no more than 15 pupils.
* Pupils will not be with their normal friendship groups due to pupil groups being smaller.
* Your child will not be in their normal classroom and will not have their normal teacher.
* You will not be fined if you choose not to send your child back to school.
* The curriculum will be different to normal curriculum delivery as not all resources will be available to the children to prevent the spread of the virus.
* If your child has an EHCP it is highly likely that the support they receive will not be their normal support.
* I cannot eliminate the possibility that your child may be exposed to the virus at school
* I cannot guarantee that children will keep a social distance from your child at all times. They are children they naturally gravitate towards each other and towards staff.
* Pupils will have staggered drop off and pick up times to avoid parents congregating in the playgrounds and putting themselves at risk.
* We cannot guarantee at this time that all pupils will be able to attend full time Monday – Friday.
* We have not as yet received guidance when remaining year groups are expected to attend school in the future.
* Pupils will continue with regular handwashing practice that was in place before the closure.
* The safety of your child and the safety of staff will remain the priority at all times.
* If your child is suspected of displaying symptoms they will need to be collected from school immediately.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 01708 555025 or email into the school office using the office@brady.havering.sch.uk email address, this can then be forwarded to myself or Mrs Zaayman.

I realise that there is a lot of information in this email, but I wanted to ensure that you all have the most up to date and correct information. This is not what we wanted for the Summer term at Brady but we have to ensure the safety of all involved in this unprecedented time.

I hope that this letter will help parents make an informed judgement before sending their child/ren back to school.

Finally, please remember that all the plans we put in place could all change anyway depending on a number of external factors and the final decision by the UK government.

Take care, stay safe

Mr Michael Nunn

**Headteacher**