

Team Bartons



Bartons Primary School COVID-19 Newsletter 8 18th May 2020



IMPORTANT

The aim of this weeks newsletter is to let you know where we are currently in our plans to reopening from the 1st June following my letter last week. As you will have seen in the media, there has been a lot of debate in relation to how schools should open and who for. The DfE have issued numerous documents which have changed daily and this makes our job much harder. However, one of the points that remain throughout the guidance is that we should group children in 'bubbles' in order to maintain as much social distance as possible. Each 'bubble' of children will remain in the same room, with the same adults and with the same staggered timings for the day.

In order to be able to plan more specifically for numbers of children in the 'bubbles', we are asking you to let us know whether or not you will be sending your child to school after 1st June. This will be the 2nd short survey (Survey Monkey) sent by text to the registered mobile number that we have for you in school. As we assess the risks for safe reopening, it has become apparent that either we will not be able to have Yr R, 1 and 6 on site full-time or we will need to have a part-time timetable. It might be the case that children will not be able to move between a key worker childcare 'bubble' and a class 'bubble'. Some of the questions in the survey are vital to our planning and I ask that you answer all of the questions rather than skip them please.

As I have said previously, if you decide not to send your children back to school before the summer break then please be assured that we completely understand that. The home learning offer for children not returning to school will be decided and communicated at a later date.

Week Beginning Monday 18th May

School continues to be open but only for key worker and vulnerable children. The Government key worker list **hasn't** changed and so the safest place for children is still at home.

The Schools Debate in the Media

Over the last week, you will have seen coverage of the Government's plan to reopen schools on the news and in the press. In many reports school leaders and teachers have been subjected to unfair criticism by the media in a time of national crisis. Some newspaper headlines have attacked schools and teachers insinuating that they have been at home not working during lockdown and that they do not care about their pupils. In light of these headlines, I feel compelled to tell you that the staff at Bartons have continued to work extremely hard on providing home learning, feeding back to children, assessing work as well as providing activities in school for key worker and vulnerable children. Mrs A. Powell and myself have worked full-time ensuring that the school runs smoothly together with addressing the added requirements of lockdown and the safeguarding of our pupils. Many of us have also had to home school our own children. All of these things combined have actually led to longer working hours and the Governors and I feel proud of each and every member of our school staff. The national debate and concern around reopening schools is actually about the safety of the children and the staff. We want nothing more than to be back with our children but the plans have to be based on whether we think it is safe and whether it is right for us.

*Have a great week. Stay safe and well
King regards Kate Powell.*