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JV 4170

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### Newsletter 23

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you are aware, on Monday evening the government released further details regarding the phased re-opening of schools. Whilst the guidance is detailed and addresses a number of issues, we are still awaiting further clarity on several areas. Guidance is being updated daily and so this is an ever-changing landscape.

I would strongly encourage you to [read the attached letter](#) from Anne Dellar, Chief Executive of ODST, which clearly sets out the position of the trust. In the letter, you will see that both **Monday 1 June and Tuesday 2 June will be INSET days for all ODST schools.**

From Wednesday 3 June, we hope to be able to welcome children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to back to school, although the government has made it clear that for the remainder of this academic year, there will be no penalty where a child does not attend school, even where they are entitled to do so. Siblings of children in these year groups will not be able to attend school for the time being. The government has stated an ambition to have all children back in school for the final month of the summer term. These timescales are based on the government's five tests being met. Please see the government's [guidance for parents and carers](#) for more information.

Whilst we will aim to make the school as welcoming as we possibly can for your children, the current restrictions imposed on us will have a significant impact on the provision for any child attending school at the beginning of June. In order that you can make an informed decision about whether or not to send your child back to school, some of the key differences that will be experienced by your children are below:

- Children will be in groups of no more than 15 – this will mean that classes will need to be split, and children may not be taught by their familiar class teacher.
- Social distancing will be encouraged wherever possible – this will mean that furniture in classrooms may be re-arranged and children will be working independently rather than with a friend, or in groups.
- Soft furnishings, or equipment that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed from classrooms.

- Resources cannot move between home and school – this will mean that we are unable to change reading books for example.
- The start and finish times of the school day will be staggered for each different group – more details will follow when they have been finalised.
- Consideration is being given as to how to manage lunch and break times. Children cannot mix outside of the group of 15 children that they are with and we are aware that it will be much harder for children to maintain distance when they are playing freely.
- Opportunities for hands on, child-led or practical learning will be reduced in order that the recommendations regarding hygiene and social distancing can be adhered to.

We are currently in the process of writing a risk assessment in preparation for reopening in June. As well as the above measures, the school will:

- Take the appropriate measures, following the government guidance, if there is a case of COVID-19 within school.
- Use good hygiene practice throughout the day: frequent hand washing; promotion of the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach; regular cleaning of surfaces and equipment; minimising contact and mixing of children and staff.

For those children who are in Years 2 – 5 and those children whose parents choose to keep them at home, home learning resources will continue to be provided on Teams. However, with the additional staffing needs in school, this provision will need to be adapted.

In order that we can plan staffing and allocate places in accordance with the government guidance, **I would like parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to email me at [head.3250@hendreds.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3250@hendreds.oxon.sch.uk) as to whether you are planning for your child to return to school from Wednesday 3 June.** If you would like to discuss this with me before making a decision, I would be pleased to do so.

In these ongoing challenging times, on behalf of the governors and the staff, I would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding. I will share any further updates with you as soon as I am able to do so.

With my very best wishes



Jamie Veness