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Tuel Lane Infant School  
Clay Street, Sowerby Bridge,  
West Yorkshire. HX6 2ND

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29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you are well. All our staff continue to miss the children and we're looking forward to the day when we can welcome them all back to school to learn and play with their friends.

**Tuel Lane is a Local Authority Maintained Primary School and we are now waiting for Calderdale Council to tell us when they believe it is safe to open school to more children.**

In the meantime, we have been working hard to prepare for some of the children to return to school when it is safe to do so. It is important to say again that this will NOT be 'business as usual'. In order to follow the Government guidelines, school will work in a very different way.

At all times, our aim is to minimise risk to the children and staff. We have carried out a thorough risk assessment and continue to review this as Government guidance changes and evolves.

In line with Government guidance we are prioritising places for children of key workers and children defined as vulnerable first regardless of their year group. These children will be able to access childcare on site Monday to Friday during term time from 9am until 3:15pm.

Please note that there will not be any 'wrap around care' provided on site as Hopscotch do not plan to open until September.

We will invite groups of children from Nursery and Reception into school first. They will be followed by children from Year 1. This will be done over a few days so that our children benefit from an induction/ transition period where they will be taught how to learn in their new school environment and to make sure parents bringing them to school understand our new morning routines.

At this stage, it is important for you to know that we don't know yet if it will be possible to bring Year 2 children back to school before the end of the summer term. We really hope we can and will do our very best. I will continue to send regular email updates about this.

In the meantime, Christ Church Junior School should be in touch with you soon with information about September.

There is no expectation that you must send your children to school, the decisions about their safety is ultimately yours.

We will do all we can to make sure they children enjoy school, whilst keeping them as safe as possible.

Staff have been working exceptionally hard to redesign school to encourage social distancing as much as possible during the school day. However, due to the age of the children and the space available we absolutely cannot guarantee that children will keep the 2-metre distance from one another at all times.

To minimise the risks, we will be splitting classes to create smaller groups of children (Bubbles) of no more than 15 children. Each Bubble will remain together throughout the day for learning, break times and during lunchtime. We are trying to make sure familiar adults lead the Bubbles, but this cannot always be your child's current class teacher. Luckily, as we are a small school, most of our children know most of the staff really well.

Each Bubble will have a room. Inside the room, the things they use during the day will be reduced and cleaned regularly. All surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day and bins emptied regularly. Movement around school will be limited and highly supervised.

To ensure safety we will be continuing to teach and monitor good hygiene including hand washing, and the use of tissues. We need you to reinforce this at home too.

### **Important Reminders for Parents and Carers**

#### **Health**

Your child cannot attend if they or someone at home is vulnerable or shielding.

Your child cannot attend if they or anyone at home has coronavirus symptoms – you must isolate following the National guidance and not enter our premises. If your child becomes ill, we will isolate them from the other children and call you. You will be expected to arrange to collect them as soon as possible.

If your child is unwell you must not send them to school.

If we need to administer First Aid, staff will use appropriate PPE including face coverings at these times.

#### **Dropping off and collecting**

We will be scheduling staggered start and end times and we will send you your time before we open. Only one adult can bring children to school and collect them. You must maintain a social distance of 2 metres from other adults and their children and then leave school quickly to avoid gatherings

Please do not arrive more than a couple of minutes before your child's start time.

If you are going to be late you must call the school office. You will be given a time when you can bring your child into school and this will be after all other classes have entered the building.

You will not be able to come into the school to see your child's teacher or to visit the school office, we will work with you via email, phone calls or safely distanced conversations outside.

#### **Uniforms, lunches and other details**

Uniform is optional but whatever they wear, it is important that they come to school in clean clothes every day. Please ensure that all clothing is appropriate for school and the weather conditions.

Children will have their lunch with their Bubble. If they are entitled to free school meals or universal infant free school meals, they will be provided with a packed lunch from the school kitchen. Your child can bring their own packed lunch to school in a carrier bag that we can dispose of afterwards.

We cannot apply sun cream, on sunny days please make sure you apply it before school.

Children should limit what they bring to school- no toys or bags from home and we will not be able to send reading books or pictures and paintings home.

The children will be outside on the zoned playground for 2 sessions each day for as much fresh air and exercise as possible.

We can't hold any events such as assemblies or Sports Days as we must avoid large gatherings.

I apologise for the long list above and for the serious tone of my letters, but I know that you understand the reasons for this. I want to stress that even with all the restrictions, we will try to make school as much fun as we can again.

I will be in contact as soon as we have any dates to announce. In the meantime, you can contact your class teacher, the school office or me by email or telephone during school hours.

I really hope to see you soon.

Judy Shaw

Headteacher