



Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Re: update on possible reopening of schools**

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on reopening schools – the government has now published more guidance, and we summarise what we know so far below.

To recap, **if** the government thinks it's safe, schools will begin to reopen from 1 June to nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils. This is a national ambition for the government and it is important to note that as a school, we are working closely with the local authority and school governors before any final decisions are made.

Thank you to those parents who completed the online survey. We fully take on board your concerns, especially those linked to the local community that we serve, because we too share these concerns. For this reason, it is essential that we complete thorough risk assessments and make decisions that are right for our school.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be creating a detailed action plan to look at how we can safely welcome these year groups back. **If** it's safe for us to start the phased reopening of the school then, precautions we'll be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

On the 1<sup>st</sup> June, there will be a full governing body meeting at 4.30pm. At this meeting, governors will discuss the risk assessments and actions plans that have been made. They will also reflect on guidance that has been shared both nationally and locally. At this meeting, final decisions will be made about if and how school can begin a phased return to school. We anticipate at this point, that if a decision is made to begin a phased return, then it is more likely that we would begin with year 6 pupils at a later date in June.

**Horton Mill will not reopen until decisions have been finalised by the governing body. This means we will not be open to nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 on 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

I want to reassure you again that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. So you can make the appropriate decision, we'll provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening after our governors meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Please be reminded that in the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we're told it's safe to do so, we're unable to provide places for other children.

If you have any questions, please either email us at: [info@hortonmill.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:info@hortonmill.oldham.sch.uk) or text the school mobile system on: 07860097218.

Warm regards,  
*Zaira Cook*

Headteacher