May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding the Government announcement that schools may be able to start increasing the number of pupils attending in June. Although Appleton Academy has spent much of the last few weeks planning for an eventual reopening, including how we can ensure the health and wellbeing of children and staff, we will not actually be told whether schools will be expected to reopen further or not by Government until 28 May 2020. As a result of this, Appleton Academy will definitely not be in a position to reopen to more children from Primary year groups on 1 June 2020.

You will have seen pictures in the press of schools being readied to open to more pupils and, as I have mentioned, although we have also started this process, we need time to ensure your children will be safe in school before admitting further pupils.

If the Government do announce that more children can attend school from June, we will spend the week after half term (week commencing Monday 1 June 2020) finalising our preparation and planning and providing training to staff before opening to a limited number of Reception and Year 1 children. Initially this return to school for those pupils will be on a part-time timetable for two days per week for Year 1 children and 2x half-days for Reception children. Once we are sure that the risk assessments and procedures we have in place keep our children and wider community safe, we can increase timetables to four days and consider admitting more children.

The health and safety of our children, young people, families, staff and community is our priority during this time and school will look different as a result. Social distancing must be in place and this will mean the children are grouped into ‘bubbles’ with each bubble being kept separate from others throughout the school day. It also means that once these bubbles are set up, new children cannot join the group, which means that places are limited and your child may not be able to return to school before September.  
During the week after half term, as I have mentioned above, Primary staff will prepare for the first 'bubbles' of children to start back at school on Monday 8 June 2020.

The arrangements for social distancing will be as follows;

1) A bubble will consist of 6 children plus two adults for Reception/Year 1 children and 8 children plus one or two adults for older pupils.

2) Pupils will remain in their safe ‘bubble’ within one room, with the same adults and will only be able to mix with children in this group throughout their time in school.

3) Pupils will not be able to move between bubbles or socialise with other children who have been assigned to a different bubble. New pupils cannot join an existing bubble, which means places for children returning to school will be limited.

4) Primary children may be in a bubble outside of their usual social group and may not have their usual teacher.

5) Pupils will need to remain at a two metre distance at all times, including during social times with those in their bubble.

6) Only parents of Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will be allowed on the Academy grounds. The site will be pedestrian access only and parents will take their child to a member of staff at a designated and clearly marked drop off point.

7) Parents of older children will not have any access to the school grounds and will be asked to drop children off at the pedestrian gate if they are walking their children to school.

**THERE WILL BE NO CAR/VEHICLE ACCESS TO THE SITE FOR ANY PARENTS AND THE VEHICLE GATES WILL REMAIN LOCKED.**

7) Each bubble will be given a start and finish time and school pedestrian gates will open five minutes before the start time and will close on time.  Children who are late will not be admitted to school on that day.

8) Pupils who miss two sessions without good reason will have their place withdrawn.

9) The timings of the school day will be different to those we would normally operate. Our staff will allocate the children to a group and you will be provided with the days and times that your child should attend school. The days and times will not be open to negotiation and will only change if the Academy decides there is an operational need which requires this.

Understandably, many of you have indicated that you do not feel it is safe your child to return to school and that you do not feel the social distancing arrangements will be right for your child. It is for you and your family to decide whether you wish your child to return to school at this time and we will respect your decision. Bradford Local Authority have also announced that they will not force parents to send their child to school at this time.

I would be grateful if you could you use the following link and fill in the form to indicate whether you wish your child to return to school if the Government announce it is safe for schools to open to more children. The form needs to be completed by Friday 29 May 2020.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0VteuAAfPE2Vg0EaO-D3Z-AQ2nztFIJFu5X_469urNdUOEhNNjNGVzI3R05CRUhGMjBJRDFSNjBMSS4u>

Please be aware that places are limited and that if you do not want a place in June, your child may not be able to return until September. This is because children cannot move between bubbles or join an existing bubble once children have been allocated to it. This is due to the social distancing measures that will be in place in school.   
  
There are a very small number of additional places open in our child care provision. If you are unable to work due to schools being closed, please contact us via [info@appletonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@appletonacademy.co.uk) to discuss this further.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Appleton Academy during this incredibly difficult time. Your kind messages for staff and positive feedback regarding the measures we have tried to put in place to support you and your children during this ‘lockdown’ period have been fantastic and given everyone a huge lift. We will ensure that the wellbeing of your children remains at the forefront of our minds as we move to any next stages of reopening areas of the school. We all look forward to the day when schools can return to normal.

In the meantime, I would like to wish you and your family continuing good health and hope that you stay safe. If you do require further support or you have questions, staff continue to work in and out of school and can be contacted by emailing [info@appletonacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@appletonacademy.co.uk).

Yours faithfully



Ms H Jones

Executive Headteacher