



'Enabling every child to fulfil his/her potential in a nurturing Christian environment.'

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are well. As you have now had the opportunity to read the Local Authority's response (attached) regarding the reopening of schools, I felt that it would be useful for us the share our current thoughts of what reopening will look like at Utkinton, subject to further developments in national advice and guidance.

Through consultation with parents, staff, governors, the local authority and unions, we are currently working towards the following time scales:

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Teachers to return to School to plan and prepare for the safe return of pupils.
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 pupils (10 children) to return to school.
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> /Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception pupils (7 children) to return to school.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June/Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 pupils (9 children) to return to school.

(Childcare arrangements for eligible pupils, whose years are not in school, will continue in a separate area/with separate staff throughout this time.)

After running through many different scenarios, we plan to open the school on a Monday and Tuesday to the full year group, close the school for an extra 'deep clean' on Wednesday and reopen to the full year group on Thursday and Friday. Our reason for returning one year at a time is that we need to ensure that the children in that year group have become accustomed to our new school routines and that they can function as a completely separate group that will not come into contact with any other groups/staff in school, prior to the return of the next group. Myself, the Class Teacher and Mr. Allman will also complete a year specific, in depth risk assessment and communicate arrangements/'what it will look like' to parents before to our confirming a year group's return. Parents will also have the opportunity to talk to the Class Teacher or myself so that they can feel confident in our plans and can discuss any individual/family needs. However, we will also respect the decision of parents who feel that they would rather delay the return of their children to school. The safety of our children, staff and families will be paramount in everything we do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole staff team at Utkinton who have worked tirelessly over the last 10 weeks, adapting to working in completely new ways: Mrs. Wright who has monitored email/school communication seven days a week, 12 hours a day; Mr. Allman who has been in school every weekend to do a 'deep clean' (whilst suited up in PPE); all the teachers who have had to plan and deliver learning remotely on a brand new platform; our Facebook posters; the midday-assistants, teaching assistants and teachers who have provided childcare every week day, even during holidays and bank



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holidays; Mr Mitchell who has been in school cooking every week day since the school closed; Mrs. Barnard who has spent every free moment working through SEND paperwork and those members of staff who have not been able to join us physically for their own safety or that of members of the family, but have kept up morale through messages.

We would also like to thank all our parents and wider family members/friends who have been so understanding and supportive during this incredibly difficult time- your messages to staff have been really uplifting and enabled us to celebrate the positives in a very challenging time.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that today would have been the last day in school before our Half-Term. To give our families, and as many staff as possible, a much needed break from school work, teachers will not be uploading learning activities until the start of the last Summer Half-Term, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. School will continue to be open for childcare for those families who are critical workers or considered vulnerable and Mrs. Wright and myself will continue to monitor the school email accounts.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Pleavin