



# Friezland Primary School

'A Family Committed to Making a Difference'

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Headteacher: Miss R Swaby B.Ed (Hons) PGCE

25.05.20

## Proposals for Wider Opening of Friezland Primary School

Dear Families,

Further to the Oldham Local Authority letter sent last week, I would like to share with you our initial plans for supporting the wider opening of school to year groups, Reception, Year One and Year Six, following the government announcements.

As you know, we have been open throughout the Coronavirus pandemic to the children of key workers and vulnerable children and we are now being asked to plan for opening to additional year groups on a phased in basis, from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. We are considering the options for our individual school setting, which include the safest way to reintroduce pupils to school, based on council and government guidance. **Friezland's plans may differ from other schools as every school's context is unique.** As part of this planning and risk assessment process, the governors and senior leaders have agreed to begin the **phased return** of the eligible groups from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at the earliest.** This will allow further time to properly assess the situation nationally and locally; conduct thorough risk assessments which must be validated by the LA and, put appropriate measures and training in place for staff who have not been able to work together as a team, since the lockdown began back in March. A carefully planned phased return should also ensure staff continuity with groups of children and allow for staff to plan and maintain the positive home-learning links for those children not in attendance which they have worked so hard to establish these past few months. The wellbeing of our children and staff is paramount in our decision-making process.

The Government is encouraging children in the eligible year groups to attend, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions). **Parents will not currently be fined for their children's non-attendance.** Thank you to those families who fed-back their intentions regarding returning and to those families who have sent kind words of support. This has been helpful in supporting our planning as we have received a mixed response regarding parents' intentions. It is anticipated that the year groups will be phased in, starting with Reception followed by Year One and then Year Six. As the year groups return, we anticipate our Key Worker group will also grow, and the numbers here will be monitored to ensure we can safely manage any changes. I will write to you again with further plans in the forthcoming days. However, any plans, will need to be kept under continuous review and may be altered should circumstances change.

Should the government look to widen the opening of schools further to remaining year groups, we will review our plans and contact you again. In the meantime, and going forwards, school will continue to support our pupils with their home-learning. We have been really pleased with the engagement from our pupils whilst at home. For those children not attending school, their learning journey will continue through Google Classroom. We will also continue to prioritise vulnerable children and those of key workers and will remain open to them over the half-term period. Please continue to alert school to your requirements via the Key Worker letters which are e-mailed home regularly.

In the meantime, please be assured that we are doing everything we can to support all our pupils and families with their education and return them and staff to school, in the safest way possible.

Kind regards,

Miss Rachael Swaby and Friezland's Governing Board.

