

15 May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

RE: Extending the school opening to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1st June.

I hope you and your families are well and that you are managing as best as you can under the circumstances. I am writing in response to the latest updates from the Department for Education. The Prime Minister has indicated that we may be in a position to extend the opening of schools to some year groups from 1st June.

I am working closely with the senior leaders to assess the building, staffing arrangements and to plan for ways we could possibly open for more children safely, as well as waiting for further guidance from the government and county council.

We will not be pressuring anyone to send their child back to school. Of course we would love to see all the children but you know your personal situation best and what you would like to do for your child.

In order for us to have an idea of numbers coming into school, please can you by email us by 2pm on Wednesday 20th May at parents@andrewslane.herts.sch.uk. Please include your child's name and year group. We will then be in contact with you to confirm your child/ren's allocated days to attend.

In order to give you some detail about what ALS may look like from June 1st, we have been looking at a number of key issues. We want to make sure that we are able to make our school as safe as possible by ensuring we have detailed plans and risk assessments including how;

- Nursery children will be phased in throughout June in order that we have the full capacity of staff to deal with their needs.
- Each year group will be split into 2 groups and allocated days to attend and have a start and finish time for the day. Groups will be either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. Wednesday will be deep cleaning and teacher preparation time.
- Children will be kept in their year groups of no more than 14, with a teacher/teaching assistant and **will not** mix with other groups at all. During the school day they will complete the online learning that will continue to be set.
- We can manage social distancing as effectively as possible but this is going to be a challenge with the very young children.
- There will be extensive opportunities for handwashing and separate toilets for each class.
- Classrooms will be cleaned daily and have a deep clean once a week.
- Children in the above year groups, who are in the same family, will attend on the same days as their siblings.
- **Critical keyworker children will continue to stay in a separate group and not be added to the classes.**
- Other year groups will be phased in in accordance with the government guidance, staffing and safety.

Please be aware that any of these things may change or be subject to amendment in the ever changing climate.

In the meantime, school continues to be open for the children of critical workers whose work is crucial to the COVID-19 response.

The message is still **Stay Alert, Contain the Virus, Stay at home where possible.**

Thank you for your understanding. Our Home Learning class pages on the website continues to offer a range of activities and are updated daily. We will continue to stay in touch and keep you up to date with any announcements.

Warm wishes and looking forward to seeing you at a socially prudent distance.

Mrs. Devally and ALS team