



11 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure that after the Prime Minister's statement yesterday there are lots of questions you may have. We have lots of questions that need clarification too.

At the moment, for us at Catshill, there is **no change to guidance** from the Department for Education (DFE). We will continue to provide Critical Worker childcare for those deemed essential to the fight of Covid-19 and only for those who cannot be safely cared for at home. The message is still that it is **safer to stay at home**.

We have not received any information to support us with this new plan to start the phased reopening of some year groups. We expect we will receive further information from the DFE and local authority in the days to come, hopefully with clarification.

We will need clear guidance to plan how it is possible to social distance in schools and keep our children, staff and families safe: how we might start to phase groups of children returning and what this looks like. Please be assured there is no way we will reopen until we are 100% prepared.

As always we will keep you informed but for now, please try not to worry. Our plan for now is to continue to provide activities for learning at home, keep contact with you our families and continue to support each other in these very difficult and uncertain times.

Below is a statement written in collaboration with the other schools in Bromsgrove.

"All schools in the Bromsgrove District will follow guidance when issued in order to do what is safe and reasonable. It is likely that schools will have different approaches in accordance with individual school circumstances, such as staffing, building and classroom size, toilets, corridor size, stairways, numbers of entrances and the number of pupils they could manage safely. The schools in this area have worked together to consider various possible approaches and made decisions based on their local circumstances. "

Regards

Paul Essenhigh
Executive Headteacher