

## **The Re-opening of Elmfield School**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since we wrote to you on 5th June, we have been extremely busy getting the school ready for reopening for the first group of children and we are now keen to give you all an update on where we have got to and what happens next. Please remember we are providing all Elmfield pupils with online learning activities until the end of the summer term.

### **PHASE 1**

Parents and carers of those returning in phase 1 (children of critical workers and vulnerable children) have received information covering the many practical details of the return and an outline of the curriculum provision which we will be offering. We are now looking forward to meeting this group of pupils on 22nd June.

### **PHASE 2**

We are turning our attention to the specific year groups which the government currently considers to be the next highest priority. We are following the updated government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

#### ***Classes 5 and 9***

For this group we hope to widen our provision from Monday 29th June to all Class 5 (Year 6) and Class 9 (Year 10) students in line with the government guidance above. Ideally these students will join the Class 5 and 9 bubbles set up in Phase 1. Due to the space standards that must be applied at the moment we anticipate that there will be limited spaces for students entering these classes.

Please note that we are using our largest spaces (the Hall, the Eurythmy Room, and the Movement Room) to accommodate our identified bubbles. As a result, we are likely to be offering part-time provision for these Phase 2 students from classes 5 and 9, who will be accommodated alongside those from the priority groups who are entitled to full time provision. The government guidance indicates that Class 9 on-site provision should supplement remote learning, and that remote learning should remain the predominant form of delivery for that class.

#### ***Class 10***

Like Class 9, our Class 10 students also have GCSE exams to take next year. We are unique in this situation due to the way we stagger GCSE exams over two years. So, we believe that this group is comparable to the Class 9 status created by the Government. Therefore, we are currently seeking confirmation from our insurers that the status of class 10 is within the spirit and therefore scope of the guidance and that their inclusion in our plan doesn't contravene the government guidance. Again, if we are able to provide it this provision is likely to be on a part-time basis and should complement our online provision.

### ***Early Years***

We are opening to Early Years provision in accordance with the current Government guidelines, however at this point the capacity of our Early Years provision has been filled by the Phase 1 cohort. There are two reasons for this. First, we are constrained by our relatively small workforce. Second, the EYFS statutory regulations limit us to a maximum group size of 8 children. We would like to find a way to open up a third bubble in the Early Years department. If this is possible and within EYFS and current government guidelines, we will do this. However, please bear in mind that this provision is likely to be part-time.

### **PHASE 3**

#### ***All other classes: Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 11***

Government guidance indicates that schools may be able to make provisions for these groups as a phase 3 of opening if there is capacity. At this stage Elmfield does not have the capacity required to provide an onsite provision for children in these groups in addition to those we are providing for in our Phase 1 groups. Again, the primary reason for this is related to staffing requirements. We are a relatively small workforce and during this period we must continue to provide our online education.

### **NEXT STEPS**

We now need to establish the specific numbers of children wishing to access Class 5 and Class 9. Parents of children in these classes will shortly receive an email about this. Please act on this as soon as you possibly can. If our insurers approve our request to admit Class 10 students, we will be emailing these parents also.

In preparation for the reopening on Monday 22nd June, we will be sending final details to parents/carers of children in the priority groups (children of critical workers and vulnerable children) no later than 10am on Friday 19th June.

We are really looking forward to opening our doors again and very much hope it won't be too long before we can welcome others into the school again.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of the Coordination Group about anything concerning your child or the reopening of the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via [diana.ball@elmfield.com](mailto:diana.ball@elmfield.com) or [gertraud.soukup@elmfield.com](mailto:gertraud.soukup@elmfield.com).

With all best wishes,

**Diana Ball** (Interim Education Lead)

**Gertraud Soukup** (Chair of the College of Teachers)

**Sue Dawson** (Chair of the Council of Management)