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Covid-19 update 16-06-20

Florendine families

As we begin our second week of wider opening to pupils from the designated year groups (R/Y1/Y6) I wanted to take a little time to explain how we are currently operating.

Government guidelines have stipulated that we set up “bubbles” of people in school to minimise the amount of contacts that each individual has. Each bubble group has its own set of toilets and sinks and they remain separated when eating lunch. Each bubble should remain consistent having the same adults and children within it. This way if there is a case of Coronavirus within the school then the affected bubble is removed and asked to self isolate and we don't have to shut the entire school. Operating in this way relies upon us using a separate set of staff for each bubble to avoid any cross-contamination.

Due to reduced pupil numbers in each classroom, we have split each of our year groups into two bubbles who are attending school on alternate weeks, each with their own adult staff. Due to the distancing requirements the number of children we can accommodate in each class is about half of what it normally would be.

We are also open to 2 critical worker bubbles who have their own group of designated staff. It is because of these arrangements that we are currently using 7 of our 10 classrooms and all of our staff are working with a bubble. Staff that aren't in school on alternate weeks continue to provide and respond to home learning work on a daily basis.

Obviously we would love to be welcoming back more pupils from different year groups but we do not have the capacity , facilities or staff to do so safely. We are now looking at connecting with each class using video conferencing software and exploring all options to get them all back into school(on a rota basis), even for a short period, before the end of term.

This week we expect Gavin Williamson (the Secretary of State for Education) to outline plans for a summer catch-up programme that the Prime Minister referred to in one of the daily briefings last week. We are also waiting for clarification as to what arrangements school will need make in respect to critical worker children who we have stayed open for through all the holidays, since school closures at the end of March.

As always I will update you on the latest Government guidance as soon as I am aware of any changes that will impact our school.

Mr Crookes



