

14/5/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: Possible reopening of school to more children in June**

Thank you for your reflective responses to the short questionnaire sent out earlier this week. We will take into consideration your views.

As you will know schools **may** reopen on 1<sup>st</sup> June to Pre-school Nursery children, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils **if** the Government thinks it is safe to do so.

After almost 18 years of headship, I have been in the privileged position to take responsibility for someone else's child, lead a group of very talented staff and work alongside some amazing communities. This has all taught me a great deal. Mainly, to be truthful and consider any decisions on how I would feel if it was my child.

Do I want staff and children back in school? Yes of course I do. All the staff are missing the children. We also appreciate you must be frustrated and finding it challenging. Home teaching is not as easy as it sounds, particularly if you are juggling with caring for others and working from home.

One of the Government guidelines is where possible, children should adhere to the social distancing rule and be divided into groups no larger than 15 children per classroom. This will then become their 'learning and social bubble' and the staff where possible will remain constant for these children. Clearly this poses many challenges. In my experience children, particularly very young children, find the concept of social distancing extremely difficult. They are unable to adhere to this despite being constantly reminded by staff. We have had firsthand experience of this since the lockdown period, whilst we have been providing care for many Key Worker children.

The DfE have not really provided any solutions for schools just expectations, some of which are beyond our control.

We are currently carrying out Risk Assessments and taking numerous actions to try and ensure everyone is as safe as possible under these very challenging circumstances.

Although it is a very unsettling time for us all, please be reassured that we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive these year groups **if it is safe for our school to reopen in the coming weeks.**

However, we are also not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation

best. We will keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision. Please see COVID19 tab on the website for updated information.

We would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We will need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please do continue to do what you can and stay in touch with us about how your child is learning through the Seesaw online platform.

Please also be reminded that we have uploaded many resources and help lines number and provide staff support for any wellbeing concerns. (See COVID19 tab on Website) [www.monkscoppenhall.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.monkscoppenhall.cheshire.sch.uk)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June should have been the second week of our planned half term holiday. We will **not** be taking the second week of the holiday now. This will enable us to prepare to open should it be deemed safe by the Government to do so. In addition, this will allow us to carry out a further deep clean of the building. Therefore, we will finish earlier than the planned closure date in July.

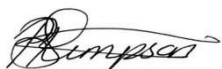
**The new closure date will be Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Can you please reply to this email stating one of the following options;**

- Name of child/ children and year groups
- I will definitely be sending my child to school in June.
- I will not be sending my child into school in June because .....
- I might consider sending my child into school in the future when I feel more confident about the health risks.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.  
01270 814040

Warmest regards,



Mrs Pamela Simpson  
Principal Monks Coppenhall Academy and Day Nursery