

CROWLAND SOUTH VIEW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lincolnshire County Council
Postland Road
Crowland
Peterborough
PE6 OJA



Headteacher: Mrs J M Tomlins
Deputy Headteacher: Ms C Henderson
Chair of Governors: Mr P Weston

11th May 2020

Response to Government Announcement

Dear Parents/Carers,

Like you, myself and the rest of the South View Staff, watched last night's government announcement. The prime minister said a phased return to school would begin with pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, if infection rates and the government's other tests at the time allow it, and indicated that the 1st of June would be the very earliest this could happen.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, it's thrown open a lot of questions for us as a school, and I'm sure also for you as parents/employees/employers. Most of these questions will require further clarity before I can answer fully. We are waiting to receive more information in order to gain a better understanding of the details of the government's plans, so that we can determine what this means for our school. There is a 50-page document due to be published this afternoon which I hope will give us the information we need. In the short-term, nothing has changed for us as a school, but this has given us time over the next few weeks to make relevant plans, and we will provide further information for you as soon as we are able.

At this point the government have simply stated that a phased return to school will begin with pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, providing infection rates and the government's other tests at the time allow it, and has given June 1st at the time this could happen '**at the earliest**'. What I can say is that myself and the staff are still the people who know our school best. If the National Guidance, once it is made clearer, cannot be safely applied to our school, then myself and the governors retain the power to make decisions regarding the safety of pupils and staff based on our own risk assessments. Please be assured we will always put the children's safety and wellbeing first, as well as that of staff and parents/families.

Inevitably, unless the government state otherwise in the coming weeks, South View will begin to reopen to more children soon. As mentioned in my newsletter on Friday, I would like to gather your views, questions and suggestions for you and your child/children, so that we can plan for our reopening as effectively as we can. Reintegration for our children is going to need to be gradual and approached with care; it will take time and will need very strategic planning.

Our children will have had very different experiences whilst at home: eating patterns to bedtime routines, feeling trapped indoors to spending every day in the garden. Our children's experiences and emotions will have been managed in many different ways, and on return the children may need support in remembering how to behave and feel in much bigger groups. Your child's pace



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each day may have been more relaxed, noise levels lower than they're used to in school, children who are an 'only child' may have missed the social side of playing with another. They are likely to have had experienced a variety of learning opportunities. In some cases, children may have suffered bereavement, experienced seeing their parents lose their jobs or suffered attachment issues in not seeing their families beyond their household. Some children will have been shielded from the news and others may have followed the whole Coronavirus journey on TV. Many will be worried about returning to school, wondering if they will be safe, what they will be allowed to do, and 'little things' like 'who will put a plaster on me if I fall over?'.

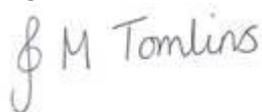
We also fully appreciate that you will have concerns, and these may not solely be around your child but maybe your own health, your family dynamics, food, finances, employment, bereavement and relationships. You may be wondering how we can keep your child safely distanced from others with class sizes of 30? How will we manage lunchtimes and are there any teachers who won't be at work? You may be considering keeping your child at home until September, but worried there may be consequences. Will there still be sports day? Will the children still all come in the front door at 8:40 or from somewhere different? Who WILL put a plaster on my child if they fall over?'.

These are all understandable questions, and ones we are working hard to plan answers for.

Today the staff will be sending out a table with your class teacher newsletter email asking for your views. In order to help us plan our 'South View Phased Return', we would appreciate it if you could spend time, as a family, discussing what information would make you feel less anxious about a return, so that myself and my staff can work on supporting you all. Please send us your questions, concerns and suggestions.

We ask that you complete the tables in the class teacher email today and return this Thursday 14th May.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs M Tomlins". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Mrs Tomlins