

Dear parents / carers,

As you can imagine we have had a week full of discussions with lots of relevant parties after the Government announced last Sunday that schools were going to be encouraged to re-open in some capacity from 01.06.20. We have spent the week discussing the latest advice / guidelines / directives regarding how we should approach the school re-opening objective put forward by the government. As you will realise by now, there are a lot of conflicting views depending whether you are listening to the government, the unions, the LA or the BMA etc and not a huge amount of overlap or agreement between them currently.

We agreed to adopt the following principles when putting together a plan:

1. Prioritise the safety of the pupils and staff on site
2. Treating both schools independently when deciding what to do
3. Take on board feedback we have received from parents so far

As from 1st June

We concluded that **we will be able to offer** the following:

- Continued provision for vulnerable children and children of critical key-workers (as we are currently) but from 01.06.20 offer this at their own school, so the Croscombe children that fall into the group that are currently attending Stoke will be able to resume back at Croscombe. If your child falls into one of these categories but they have not been attending for whatever reason, you are welcome back to the schools providing you give us reasonable notice of your reasons and intentions for your child to attend.
- We will open both schools from Monday to Thursday for Year 6 children (drop off and pick up times to follow) as these are one of the groups the government is encouraging us to accommodate and we feel we can do this safely. This is subject to final confirmation from the Government on 28th May that schools will be partially re-opening.

What **we won't be able to offer** is the following:

- Pre-School provision at Stoke
- Reception & Year 1 provision at either school

After looking at the guidelines for how we need to operate for these age groups (which are very long and very detailed), on balance we don't feel we achieve a safe environment for either the children or the staff that aligns with the guidelines.

The feedback we have had so far aligns with these decisions. Generally parents are not keen to send young children that won't understand and be able to adopt social-distancing protocols back to school.

The older children we feel will respect the guidelines we are being asked to adopt to ensure their safety and we also feel if we can we should allow year 6 to finish the primary school experience back in

their school with their peers and teacher.

Further details will follow from each school on how the government guidelines will be addressed and what children should expect when they come to school. [i.e. spacing of desks, lunch provision, playtime etc]

We just need to add that these decisions are provisional decisions and we do reserve the right to change these if the factors change significantly between now and the 1st June. The government have stated the final decision as to whether the reopening of schools will begin on 01.06.20 will be announced on May 28th 2020. Until you hear any different this is what will be happening.

Half-term week 25th -29th May

Both schools will be closed that week for ALL children as we need to prepare the schools for the planned re-opening on 01.06. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause the parents of children that are currently attending the key worker provision.

1to1 Communication regarding the implication of these decisions on your family

If you need any further clarification at this point or you are not happy with the decisions we have taken and would like to discuss them in more detail. In the first instance please contact your relevant Head of School;

Mel Vincent at Stoke - mvincent1@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Bill Moore at Croscombe - wmoore1@educ.somerset.gov.uk

If after discussions with them you are still not in agreement then please contact myself on ncramp@educ.somerset.gov.uk

We hope you understand the reasons we have taken these decisions even if you are not 100% in agreement with them. It is a unique situation with no obvious right or wrong course of action, which is why there has been so much discussion taking place in the media and on social networks this week after the government announcement.

I can assure you, we the Governors, are acting in a way, which we feel aligns with our values, and prioritise the health and wellbeing of both our pupils and our staff.

Kind regards,

Nick Cramp
Chair of Governors