

## **Highfield Update Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and careers,

I am writing to update you on our plans to re-open school on a phased basis starting with our vulnerable children and critical workers on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

So far I have received over 130 requests from our critical workers which doesn't surprise me as I knew we had a lot of parents at Highfield who work for the NHS, education, police, care and other key areas (see list in previous letter).

I am now asking for **all critical workers** who are requesting a place for their child to send proof of their work status to school via the admin e-mail. If I do not receive this proof I may be unable to accept your child on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

[admin@highfield.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.leeds.sch.uk)

This proof could be a photograph of an employee letter or your work identity badge for example. If you have already sent proof you do not need to resend it again.

Once I have the final numbers of critical worker children on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June I can then invite our reception children to join us on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. I think we will have capacity for this year group.

I am still awaiting confirmation from several staff as to whether they can return to work and they are waiting to meet with their GPs. At the moment we may be able to offer 15 bubbles – that's a maximum of 225 children.

I have to be honest and say that as the numbers stand at the moment (and they keep changing every day so it is very hard to plan the bubbles) and looking at the capacity of the school **I am not sure** whether we will be able to offer places to all our year 1 children (other than critical workers in year 1) on 8<sup>th</sup> June and it is **extremely unlikely** we will be able to offer places to our Year 6 children (other than the critical worker year six children) on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Every school has a different circumstance with regards its number of critical workers, number of vulnerable children, staff availability and site capacity including room size. Please don't compare one school with another for this reason. I have and will continue to follow the DfE guidance and have spoken to the local authority regarding Highfield's large number of critical workers and the fact that I might not be able to offer places to the other years groups the government has prioritized. There are other schools I know in a similar situation.

We do have staff who have to work from home and they will continue running SEESAW for every year group in school. So whether you find yourself in a Highfield bubble or at home please rest assured every child matters at Highfield and no child will be forgotten. I am just sorry I can't have everyone back safe in school. But even Mrs. Colley can't change what's happening with the pandemic.

I will write to you all again on 1<sup>st</sup> June with an update.

Stay safe, keep your children happy and be proud of what we are doing as a Highfield community.

Julie Colley

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>

