**Nantwich Education Partnership**

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Thursday 14th May 2020

**School Provision for Children from June 1st**

Dear Parents and Carers of our town,

We are working together to safely plan the return to school on June 1st for the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils of our partnership as well as continuing to meet the needs of our key workers and vulnerable children. This is in line with the guidance we have been issued with this week by the Department of Education (DFE).

The heads of all the schools across the partnership are liaising to look at the best way this can be managed to ensure we serve the needs of our parents, protect your children, our staff and maintain the best possible practises around hygiene to ensure the continuing safety of all. They are also working with their unions and considering if the proposed return can be safely achieved for all. **At this point in time we cannot say we will definitely return on 1st June.**

Please carefully read the letter below and complete the survey which can be found using this link:

[**https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WNXZY7J**](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WNXZY7J)or by using the QR code at the end of the letter. Simply scan the QR code with your camera on your mobile phone and this will provide a link to the survey.

The collated information will allow us to plan carefully how staff and space can most safely be utilised in our schools. **The survey needs to be returned by midday on Monday May 18th at the latest.**

**The guidance that has been given to schools from The DFE tells us that:**

* All schools will follow the guidance as clearly as they feel they can with the staffing they have available. This means that although all NEP schools will aspire to do the same, each school’s circumstances around staffing, support and physical space is different.
* The message for key workers remains the same in that schools are asked to support children when NO other childcare can be found at home.
* Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, are encouraged to attend from June 1st where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits.
* Classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). The teacher with your child will not necessarily be their normal class teacher.
* No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason.
* The government’s ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review and your school will keep you informed.
* The risk of infection in school is higher than being at home.
* Social distancing will not be able to be enforced in a school as it can be by one family caring for a small number of children. All schools will do their utmost to reduce risk by a comprehensive risk assessment, staggering lunchtimes and breaks, splitting classes and having rigorous cleaning programmes in place throughout the day. Desks will be spaced and each child will have their own equipment as much as is possible. Many activities we would normally undertake with your child will not be able to happen in the same way. Where we can, adjustments will be made but reducing risk of transmission will be the driving force in all decisions that are made regarding care and curriculum.
* Parents will have to drop their child at their designated gate and leave immediately. With only one parent undertaking this task
* Until further notice parents cannot enter the building or come onto the school yard or congregate outside. All correspondence must be via telephone or email.

These measures sound harsh and unwelcoming. We recognise as a group of schools this is not what we know you have come to expect from your child’s school, where a warm welcome and a nurturing atmosphere is what would be our normal approach.

What we all accept is that the provision on offer will need to be flexible, adapting as the staffing levels change or infection rates alter.

In the next two weeks your school will inform you of what their return offer will be and how it will be organised.

We ask for some kindness, tolerance and patience at this difficult time. We need to work together for the good of our town, community and country whilst ensuring the best possible safety for all.

The Headteachers of the Nantwich Educational Partnership.

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