



18th May 2020

Dear parents and carers of children in St Thomas' and St Clement & St James

We hope you've had a good weekend in the sunshine and all is well.

We want to give you a quick update on our current position and hope to provide you with further information later in the week. We want to be honest with you and explain our thinking process so you feel confident to return your child to school at a time that is right for you.

Thank you for talking to your class teacher last week and letting us know if you would like your child to return to school in the near future. At this point about a third of parents want their children to return to school after half term. We are keen to get pupils back to school but believe it needs to happen in a safe, measured and carefully managed way. Our primary concern is your child's safety.

We have received varied and conflicting advice from the government and teaching unions and the situation is changing rapidly every day. The government has indicated that it would like pupils to return to school after the half term holiday but this is by no means certain. As a result, the decision has been made not to act in haste. Right now staff are working very hard to put together plans and risk assessments which we hope to share with you later in the week.

In order to make decisions there are a number of limiting factors which we have to take into account such as:

- Classroom space
- Number of children whose parents wish them to return (please note there is no obligation for your child to attend school before the summer holidays)
- How well individual children are going to be able to social distance especially if they become distressed
- Number of staff available
- Availability of sinks and toilets
- Cleaning materials and PPE
- Entering and exiting the classrooms and buildings

Here are some initial thoughts following our risk assessments:

- St Clement and St James CE Primary school will reopen from 1st June (St Thomas' will remain open)
- From 1st June we will continue provision for key worker and vulnerable children who are already attending school
- We will phase the opening of classes and there will be a staggered start to the day
- At first, classes will be smaller in order to maintain social distancing
- The first class we will open will be Y1 and this will most likely happen on the 2nd June
- The next class to open will be Y6 which we hope to open on the 8th June
- Due to staff shortages, we are very sorry but it is unlikely that we will be able to open the early years classes to any children beyond key worker and vulnerable

As many things are not yet confirmed and **the return date of 1st of June is still provisional** our plans cannot be finalised. We will be in touch again later this week with more information. If in the meantime you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you a happy and healthy week.

Sarah Bouette
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Dowthwaite at St Clement - ellie.dowthwaite@stfed.rbkc.sch.uk

Miss Bouette at St Thomas' - sarah.bouette@stfed.rbkc.sch.uk

Or call the school offices in the morning from 9-12am

St Clement contact: info@scsj.rbkc.sch.uk

St Thomas' contact: info@st.rbkc.sch.uk

Online learning: www.scsj.rbkc.sch.uk/classes/ or <https://www.st.rbkc.sch.uk/class-pages/>