



**Headteacher**

**Mrs Nicola O'Connell BA (Hons) MEd (Cantab)**

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12.5.20

Dear Parents,

I am writing regarding the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening that schools are to extend the number of pupils they have in school by welcoming back Reception and Year 1 pupils on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 with an intention to extend this to Year 2 pupils later in the month. Further guidance from the Department of Education emerged last night extending this even further to our Nursery children whilst looking after the children of key worker's from all year groups.

Guidance suggests that we can split children into groups of 15, stagger the start and end of the day, keep children in groups and not allow them to mix with other groups, stagger lunch and playtimes all whilst maintaining a 2metre distance.

In the interests of being truthful, as I always am, I can honestly say that we **cannot** achieve social distancing in school. We will try; we will do our absolute utmost to keep everyone safe but my experience so far is that social distancing with young children is unachievable, as soon as we open the school the risk will be there.

It is a privilege to be a Headteacher and a school is only a building without the wonderful children and amazing staff so of course we want the children back, of course I understand that it is challenging trying to home school your children but the safety and wellbeing of the whole school community is paramount.

As there isn't a vaccine or a reliable test it does feel that this announcement is based on 'let's keep our finger's crossed and hope that it will be ok.' These are your children, it will be your decision whether you send your children back, you will not be penalised if you don't as I will respect your wish to keep your children safe at home.

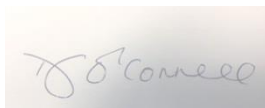
Over the next few days we will be trying to plan for the majority of the children's return and squeeze them into what essentially amounts to 6 classrooms and timetable the available staff. I will of course update you when I have something that resembles a safe plan.

In the meantime could I ask you to take part in this 2 question survey in order for us to ascertain how many children are likely to return?

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qUTWgjUkpUWPKGLbmN9lgddm7hyhea1Kl-akCBv91KjdUMk9CV0o4NU4wOVNJQzRSTzRTWFpON1RNQS4u>

If you have any questions or comments to make please do not hesitate to contact me on [head@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk)

As always, take care and stay safe.



**Nicola O'Connell**

**Headteacher**