



Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: anticipated reopening of schools to more pupils in June

Hello everyone, I thought I would take the opportunity to give you a brief overview into the 3 Federation schools plans for the intended reopening of schools. This letter covers the position of the Federation as a whole, but more detailed information will follow for each school.

I would like to start by saying a massive thankyou to all staff, children and parents in our family. The past 8 weeks have been really unsettling for all of us, but throughout the challenges we have stuck together and looked after each other. I have shed a tear on hearing the stories that some of you have shared, but have also had lots of laughs along the way. I hear from staff that trying to home school your children is a nightmare!!! Mine are grown up, so I escaped that one, but regardless of whether your children have been in school or at home we have all pulled together and kept as safe as we can.

I know you will have seen in the news that schools have been asked to reopen in June to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils **IF** the government thinks it's safe. Actually, we will reopen if **WE** think it is safe for staff and children to do so. School leaders, myself and governors will make our decisions based on what we know about our buildings, the number of available staff and the number of children attending. We are individual schools and will not be following a carte blanche directive until we are confident that our environment is ready for our community. My approach has always been "if it isn't good enough for my own children then it isn't good enough for yours".

Rest assured we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to receive these year groups if it's safe for our schools to reopen in the coming weeks. At this stage in our planning, due to shielding staff members, we are **NOT** reopening **Nursery** in this first phase.

Based upon Government, Public Health and Local Authority guidance (which changes every day!) our decisions have been and will be made with the following 3 principles in mind:

SAFETY: *the safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.* We're currently creating detailed action plans and assessing risks in each school that we'll share with you as soon as possible. Either Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Holdsworth or Mrs Campbell, our 3 Headteachers, will share those with you before we reopen. These plans will also be scrutinised by a team of staff and governors, ensuring that we have thought about and assessed as many risks as possible.

COMMUNITY: *supporting the communities we serve is important to us.* We recognise that reopening schools will allow parents to return to work and we do not in any way underestimate how difficult the current situation has been for families, including our own. We are all in this together and will continue to operate in the same way that we always have, going the extra mile for you and your children. This has been proven to me time and time again by staff over the last few months.

CHOICE: *we believe that in most cases parents are in the best position to decide whether their child/children return to school or not.* We know that every family and their circumstances are different. Children will be encouraged to attend, particularly where we or you feel that the family might just need an extra bit of support, but no one will be compelled to attend. Our staff will continue to support learning at home or school. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#).

As each school and community in our family is very different, your headteacher will be in touch to share specific detail. We will be offering a service that may look different to the norm. We are aiming for small groups and staggered timings.

Ingrow Primary School
Broomhill Avenue
Keighley
BD21 1BW
Headteacher: Mrs A Campbell
Tel: 01535 603868
Email: administrator@footprintsfed.com

Glenaire Primary School
Thompson Lane
ShIPLEY
BD17 7LY
Headteacher: Mrs J Wilkinson
Tel: 01274 582514
Email: office@glenaireprimary.co.uk

Long Lee Primary School
Cherry Tree Rise
Keighley
BD21 4RU
Headteacher: Mrs S Holdsworth
Tel: 01535 603986
Email: office@footprintsfed.com

In the meantime, school is still open until **FRIDAY 22nd May 2020 for vulnerable pupils and the children of Key Workers. We will then close, and reopen on THURSDAY 4th June 2020** for previously mentioned year groups. This will allow staff to have time to prepare for return, be trained on risk assessments and for another whole school deep clean of the building and resources.

We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to children other than those in Reception, Year 1, Year 6, or those who have been identified as the children of Key Workers or the more vulnerable, until we receive further government guidance.

If you are a key worker and worried about childcare between Tuesday 26th May and Wednesday 3rd June then be assured school will contact you to discuss, or you can have a conversation when you drop children off this week – at a safe distance of course.

I want to reassure you again that we're not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure your school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We'll keep you updated once we know more about when schools will be able to reopen for other year groups. Or indeed if schools will not reopen at the start of June.

If your child will remain at home beyond 4 June, we'll continue to support you and them with home learning, and meal support for those eligible. Please do continue to stay in touch with us about how your child is getting on.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Wilkinson (Glenaire), Annette Campbell (Ingrow), Sue Holdsworth(Long Lee)

Warm regards,

Angela Vinnicombe
Strategic Leader
Footprints Federation