

# Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

A Church of England School



17 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been delighted to be able to welcome more children back to school. Thank you for all your continuing support; we have been able to maintain all the control measures we put in place because you and the children have responded to the changes so well. I am also very grateful for the way the staff have worked to ensure we welcomed more pupils back to school, we are now becoming more confident in the new routines.

You may be aware that there was an announcement on Monday, the details can be found [here](#). Essentially, the Government has stated:

*We know that in some schools, there will be capacity to welcome more children back, in group sizes of no more than 15, before the summer holidays. This may be because take-up amongst eligible children is lower than expected, or because there is additional space still available within the school and available staff to teach and supervise. There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.*

We now need to look at what capacity we have and what we can do to try to welcome as many children back to school as possible before the end of term. Ideally we would like to aim for all children experiencing some on-site provision but I need information from you before I can work out a way forward.

In my letter to you on the Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June I explained that I would contact you again in the week beginning the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We still intend to contact you next week with the exact details of any changes we intend to make from the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

First, I would ask you to respond to the parental survey at this link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IUVMepIfGE2U9SfICX2T\\_amemjCL92RLr1z-AXHAtiVUOVINVDVJMks2TlkwNlIdaUVVIOTgxSzNGSS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IUVMepIfGE2U9SfICX2T_amemjCL92RLr1z-AXHAtiVUOVINVDVJMks2TlkwNlIdaUVVIOTgxSzNGSS4u). Could I please ask that this is completed **by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm** as I will need this information to inform our planning for the final 2 weeks of term. The survey will help me to establish:

- how many more children may need key worker provision for the last 2 weeks of term
- how many children in the 'eligible year groups' nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 did not originally take up their places but would now like to do so if they can.
- How many children in the other year groups, year 2, 3, 4, 5 would like to take up places if we can offer some provision, even if this is part time or a very reduced provision or experience such as a welfare meeting on site with a trusted adult.

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We will then work through a prioritised list of actions:

- we will work with our secondary staff to have year 6 on site for transition activities so that this frees up space on our site
- we will establish any extra staffing capacity: this will be a combination of more staff who can now return to working on site, supply teachers to cover teachers not able to return or Local Authority personnel

We will also consult with staff and with our health and safety advisors to see if we can make the following changes to our risk assessment, thereby increasing the number of children on site:

- increase the number of children in nursery and reception to a maximum of 15 in a room. We feel we can do this now because infection rates in the community are lower than they were at the beginning of June and we are now more confident in the other measures we have in place: ensuring anyone with symptoms does not attend school; increased hand hygiene; increased cleaning regimes; minimised mixing with other bubbles/cohorts. Wherever possible, we will still maintain social distancing but we recognise this is very difficult with young children and whilst we will remain cautious, we recognise the need to increase access to a wider group of children if we can.
- If, as has been speculated, the national guidance on social distancing reduces to one metre, then we will increase the number of children in classrooms in years 1 to 6 so that we are still able to achieve one child to one desk and we are still able to ensure the teacher is able to maintain social distancing. No group will exceed a maximum of 15 pupils.

Depending on the outcomes of our conversations and the feedback we receive from you, we could be writing to you next week with any of the following scenarios:

- a) We have no extra capacity and we are not able to accommodate any more children on site as we have not been able to release more space and we have not secured more staffing capacity.

or

- b) We have a high number of more key worker children needing provision and this uses all of our extra capacity. We would rely on Local Authority support for the children we cannot accommodate and they may have to be educated elsewhere.

or

- c) We have more children in the eligible year groups: nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6, wanting to return and we can only accommodate some or all of these children with the extra capacity we have.

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or

- d) We have some extra capacity and we are able to accommodate more children on site. In this scenario we will be using a principle of trying to give every child whose parents have indicated that they wish to return, some provision on site before the end of term. This may mean some part-time rota provision to ensure that we accommodate as many pupils as possible. Our main objective in this scenario and for any time on site, would be to support their emotional well-being: reminding them that school is a safe and positive place and to support their motivation for remote learning through to the end of term. In this scenario, a teacher would work with a bubble/cohort of a maximum of 15 pupils who may not necessarily be together on site at all times.

When we write to you next week we will be outlining the confirmed details for provision for the last three weeks of term, this phase begins on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

As ever, if you have any questions or queries then please do contact us at the school by phone 0116 2780232 or email [office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk).

Once again, please do complete the survey **by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm** as we will need this information to complete detailed planning.

Finally, we welcomed the news yesterday evening that the Government has confirmed that the free school meal vouchers scheme will continue throughout the summer holiday. We will outline the dates on which we intend to issue vouchers very soon.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and encouragement, this, and the enthusiasm and joy of the children who have returned to school, has inspired us to be more optimistic and hopeful in our future plans.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Collins  
Head of Primary

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