Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are all keeping well in these strange times. In light of recent government announcements I wanted to write to you with regards to the potential opening for more pupils from 1st June.

As you know, school has remained open throughout this crisis, including Easter, half term and bank holidays, for keyworker children and vulnerable pupils. This group of children have been the top priority since the ‘lockdown’ and this will continue to be the case as other pupils join them. The government has now asked schools to try, as far as possible, to admit pupils in this order of priority for primary schools. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June.

The Department for Education (DfE) has made it clear that a number of tests have to be satisfied before any school can open and I believe that the government will be making a decision around this on the 28th May.

All the way through this crisis I have tried to keep the safety of my pupils, families and staff at the heart of all my decisions and this approach will continue as we head to the next phase of wider opening.

In getting ready to re-open there has been a great deal of government and local authority guidance and paperwork to plough through. I am going to be honest with you all, this has been no easy task and as a result I am not able to open to all pupils from these year groups starting on 1st June. The planning time required for us to follow governmental advice means that I genuinely think we will not be able to admit more pupils until at least the 8th June and even then it will be a phased process based upon testing the measures we have put in place. Of course we will be in touch with you with dates and arrangements once they are finalised. I would also like to highlight that throughout this process any plans made are provisional and subject to change in line with ever changing government guidance.

Thank you to those parents in the named year groups that replied to the message indicating whether or not you would be sending your child back to school when re-opened. If you have not yet replied to this then please email d.thomas@paget.bham.sch.uk as soon as possible.
It is important for parents to note that the new school experience will be very different for children to their experience when they were here before the 20th March. In order to meet social distancing measures and other DFE guidelines there is no guarantee that your child will be with the same adults, in the same rooms or with the same group of children that they were before. We will also have to limit numbers of adults on site and carefully manage entrances, exits etc. There may also be changes to timings of the day and indeed the length of the school week.

I am sure that, like me, many of you will have lots of questions and so attached to this letter is a question and answer document that I hope you will find useful. This will be updated regularly as I get more and more answers. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have questions or concerns, or raise them with the class teachers when they get in touch with you and we will feed them in to this document.

I will be in touch soon when I have more concrete information for you but please rest assured the safety of the whole Paget family is at the forefront of any decision making and if needs be this will take priority over any DFE guidelines.

In the mean time I wish you all the very best, take care and stay safe.

Vicky Nussey

Head Teacher