Wednesday 13th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians

As you are aware the Prime Minister made an announcement on Sunday about the proposed return of pupils to schools. Since then we have been liaising closely with the local authority and seeking further clarification on the implications for Special schools. Firstly, the announcement that certain year groups will be prioritised does not apply. As you are aware, we do not base our class groups solely on age so this would not work for us at Kings Mill. Also the pupils are largely transported into school by LA buses and these have a range of age groups travelling together. Yesterday we received this guidance from the DFE:

‘Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups.’

Following this guidance we are looking at phasing some pupils back in after the half term break.

If your child is currently at home could you possibly give us an indication if you would prefer to keep them at home until September, or if you would like them to return to school. If you could contact us today or tomorrow that would be very helpful. If your child is unable to return following medical advice or if indeed you choose to keep your child at home, your child’s class teacher will be in touch to ensure you have the resources and support you may need. However, please do continue to contact either, Jayne Duke or a member of SLT if you need anything further. Can I emphasise that this will not mean a full return to how things were before lockdown. We continue to have reduced staffing and we also have to try to observe social distancing measures. Once we have an idea of numbers we will be able to work out which pupils can attend on which days. It is likely that for many pupils this will mean attending part time. We are also planning on continuing to work from home on Fridays so that the school has three clear days to be germ free! As always the welfare and safety of the pupils continues to be our priority and we will do our best to be fair and equitable in how we plan the return to school. We are closing for May half term but the Residence will be open for pupils currently attending school. Any queries on the Residence please call Steve Miller Head of Care directly.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact school for further clarification.



Gail Lawton

Headteacher