



**The Orchards Primary Academy**  
Rhayader Road  
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Headteacher: Hayley Carrier

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**21<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are continuing to be safe and well. Thankfully we at least have this wonderful weather to raise our spirits.

I know that many of you will be anxiously awaiting communication from us to inform you of our plans for re-opening, as per the Government announcement for June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Although the senior leadership team are very busy putting plans together for the school to reopen, we will not be in a position to share these detailed plans with you until after 28<sup>th</sup> May. This is due to the expected announcement coming from the Government on this day.

What I don't want to do is inform you of plans that may well change; this will just cause even more confusion and I think you'll agree, there is enough of that around schools at the moment!

**In order to finalise our plans, we will need the following from all parents; please be ready to let us know on 29<sup>th</sup> May or 1<sup>st</sup> June if you intend to take up a school place for the year groups on offer. Currently, this will be all parents of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. I stress that these year groups could change, but this is the current advice we are being given at the time of writing this letter.**

You will need to do this either by calling the school to speak with someone directly, or via email. Both of these can be found at the top of this letter. If we do not hear from you, we will presume that you will not be sending your child back to school. This is so that we can plan carefully with appropriate ratios.

It is important to note that we will only be accepting 'new' children to join every Monday, and only after communication with the school. For example, if you choose not to send your child on a Monday, you will be unable to turn up on a Tuesday; this is to ensure that we have enough staff on site to care for the children.

I want to reassure you that we are taking our re-opening very seriously. Staff have worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to alter classroom layouts to ensure strict social distancing, ensure we have cleaning and first aid equipment to last us at least 3 months and to put plans together to try to keep the feel of the school whilst putting children and staff safety as our top priority. Despite this, school will look and feel very different when we do start to return.

Thank you for your patience; I'm sure that you can understand what a hugely challenging and frequently changing situation this is for school staff to manage.





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I will write to you again on or around 28<sup>th</sup> May when we have a clearer idea of what the Government is proposing,

Stay safe,

Mrs Carrier  
Head Teacher

