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Dear Parents and Carers

Green Lane's Plans for 1st June and Survey Request

I want to be as honest as possible with you all about the preparations we are making to try and get the school ready to reopen for children in **Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6**. At the moment we are reading through all the guidance coming from the government and trying to work out what our response to each requirement would be with the overriding principle that the safety and health of pupils, families and staff must come first.

The guidance states that returning children should be split into groups no larger than 15 and that those groups be **kept apart from all other groups** throughout the day, including at lunch and breaktimes. We know that the risk of young children dying from the virus is small but we are extremely worried about children spreading the virus amongst classmates and then taking it home to their families and them contracting it with greater risk to their health, I am equally worried about the staff at school and the risk to their health – many of whom are over 50 (I won't share who!). With this in mind we feel that **class groups below 15** would be safer and would at least lessen the risks. It goes without saying that children and staff in the vulnerable category and currently shielding must continue to do so and must not return to school.

We are working on plans to place the children into these smaller groups – that could mean separating the children in each of the three year groups in up to 3 separate classes; potentially that means **9 classes**. Those 9 classes need a separate and secure room within which to operate, they need a dedicated member of staff who will be with them throughout the day, it means those groups having break on their own, it means those groups having lunch on their own and of course it needs pupils to abide by social distancing rules and not to mix – doing so places all children in other groups at risk. We have also been advised that children must **not share resources** or handle any soft materials (such as toys or cushions) making it a very different learning environment for Early Years in particular. This is just a fragment of the planning we are currently working on; they are not finished but rest assured we will share them with you when they are.

Everyone in the Green Lane community wants to see children return, you do, we do and they do, but I would be lying if I did not admit that we are incredibly anxious about reopening. The government guidelines state that in school the 2 metre distancing does not apply and that PPE is not required despite classrooms being enclosed working environments. As Headteacher that scares me and it does not fill me with confidence, but we will do our best to make this work and to provide **an environment that is as safe as it can be**.

Planning for reopening poses lots of questions – if we need all staff to teach these smaller groups then how can we keep home learning and class emails working for those not in school? How many children will actually return on 1st June, **how many parents will send children in** and how many will want to keep children at home? I am putting no pressure on parents either way, I will respect whatever decision you make.

Miss Hall has created an online survey where we ask you to indicate what your decision might be, particularly in those year groups I mentioned above. This will help us to plan. Here is the link to it:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENh8sLe1WHgYtFpzsRd6T6DLZUME81QUtLQ05ISDJNTTZZWDFUN05CRkIIISC4u

As always our strength is in our togetherness and in our community. As we move into these uncertain next few weeks I feel stronger knowing we support each other.

Best wishes and look after each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr R Goffee'.

Mr R Goffee
Headteacher