



**Oakmeadow Primary School**   
Part of the **Marches Academy Trust**

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## **Dear Parents & Carers,**

I am sure that you are aware that this week the Secretary of State for Education finally clarified the government's position regarding the full opening of primary schools for a month before the end of term. He has accepted that most schools (particularly primaries) do not have the capacity, in terms of both physical space and teachers, to welcome back all students.

In the last few months we have been asked to respond, usually at very short public notice, to circumstances we could scarcely have imagined as we entered into 2020. Over the past few weeks, we have been tasked with the complete redesign and reorganisation of our classrooms (and also our curriculum) and other learning spaces in school to ensure it was safe for a phased return. Following several incarnations of risk assessments, this has meant: emptying classrooms of furniture to enable social distancing; sectioning off playground equipment and outdoor spaces; the installation of further hand washing and sanitising stations as well as acquiring sufficient PPE for staff. Revised timetables were then drawn up to allocate staff to these smaller groups, alongside opportunities for them to continue to provide work for- and monitor- online classrooms. We were, of course, committed to doing all of this and more and thank you all for your support and patience during this time.

By the 22nd June, we will have over 100 keyworker children and have introduced year 6 back for a specific transition package and year 1. I'd like to take this moment to thank all staff, who have been incredibly resilient, adaptable and have been working throughout the whole lockdown in different capacities. A particular thank you to Mr Smith and Mrs Fletcher, who have been central to the health and safety organisation and making our school safe.

The year 6 will complete their transition on the 3rd July and this then allows us to invite our reception pupils (6th July onwards) in to meet their new teachers and have a nurture experience back at school, something we felt very important.

At present, because of the physical size of our school, and the structure we have planned for the groups who have already returned to school along with the expanding number of children requiring our key worker provision, unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to take any more year groups at this time while current social distancing restrictions apply and classes are limited to groups of 15 maximum. This is hugely upsetting for us all, but we hope the remote learning package we are providing allows a good quality learning opportunity.

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**OUTSTANDING 2016**

