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www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

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Dear parents and carers,

COVID-19 Schools Re-opening?

I can see that there is already a lot of confusion and media speculation out there about the recent announcement from the Government regarding the possibility of schools re-opening after 1st June and this will probably increase over the coming days, adding to everyone's stress levels.

The detailed guidance for schools only came through late yesterday afternoon. If you would like to read the DFE guidance (rather than newspaper reports) the three documents that schools are being referred to are:

1. Action for schools (last updated 28th April)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

2. Guidance for implementing protective measures (May 11th)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

3. Info for parents and carers (May 11th)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Head Teachers of our local cluster of schools are getting together (remotely) this Wednesday to discuss this guidance and to exchange ideas about how we can possibly do this so that everyone attending school is as safe as they can be in the school environment. Last week we were also in touch with our local MP for Meon Valley, Mrs Flick Drummond. The National Association for Head Teachers has been in constant contact with the DFE over the duration of this crisis and last week held an internal virtual questions and answers session which involved over 3,500 Head Teachers. I attended this and was reassured to hear that my concerns were echoed by everyone else in the profession.

We will need time to digest this guidance and to work on formulating the best possible policies and workable procedures for the Denmead Junior school community of families. We also need to remember that 1st June is not a definite reopening date, as it depends on how things develop in the next couple of weeks, and it certainly won't be 'normal school'.

As I know everyone needs to plan ahead, I will endeavour to share the school's plans as soon as I can.

Please continue to take care and stay safe,

Elaine Viner
Head Teacher

