



**Abel Smith**  
**School** Established  
1861

Abel Smith School  
Churchfields, Greencoates, Hertford  
Hertfordshire. SG13 8AE  
**Tel:** 01992 583 244  
**Email:** [admin@abelsmith.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abelsmith.herts.sch.uk)

**Headteacher:** Mr Daniel Hewitt

Friday, 05 June 2020

Dear parents,

**Update regarding the Re-opening of school**

I am pleased to report that the plan to re-open school has run very smoothly this week and it has been a delight to have more children in the building. Your children are a credit to you and have coped admirably with the strange environment and additional procedures. Because the plan has run so smoothly I am pleased to say that we are moving on to the second stage of the plan, which is to welcome back year one children whose parents indicated that they would like their children to attend school.

In my letter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, I explained that the school's priority was to continue to support keyworker and vulnerable children. The school has seen an increased number of children attending school under the keyworker bubble. This has resulted in a larger number of staff having to be allocated to this bubble. As a result, school is now at full capacity and unable to take requests for any more children to attend school. I know that this is disappointing, but if I am to maintain the safety of the children and staff I cannot allow any more children to attend.

If your child is in reception, the plan continues to allow them to return on week three and the numbers have been factored in. What we cannot do is accept any additional requests for this class, as the government has restricted bubble sizes to 8. If you indicated on the re-opening of school's form that you would like your child to return to school, you will receive information next Friday.

For the rest of the school community, because the government has announced that the five tests have been met, we are still planning to open more widely on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Unfortunately, even though the five tests have been met, the government has not relaxed its rules on social distancing and so the configuration of our bubbles must remain. This will cause issues opening more widely as we do not physically have the space to accommodate all children. If social distancing rules are relaxed, we will of course be absolutely delighted to welcome all children back to school before the summer.

Making these decisions has not been easy, as the teaching profession revolves around interaction with children. I firmly believe that children need to be in school and every member of the Abel Smith team want to see them return, but it can only happen when it is safe.

I will continue to keep you updated as the situation changes and we move towards a more normal way of life.

Finally, I would like to thank all those parents who have sent thanks in to school. It truly means a great deal and I know the whole team delights in reading them.

If you have any additional questions, please email: [support@abelsmith.herts.sch.uk](mailto:support@abelsmith.herts.sch.uk). Please remember there is likely to be a delay in responding due to the current situation, but myself and the team will endeavour to respond as soon as we possibly can.

As always, keep safe, look after your families and those most in need.

Yours faithfully

Mr Daniel Hewitt  
**Headteacher**