



Learning and friendship go hand in hand

**Ringway Primary
Guidepost
Choppington
Northumberland
NE62 5YP**

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know the government have asked the country to take the first tentative steps to ease lockdown. This has included saying that schools may open to more children from June 1st. Since this announcement I have been studying all of the guidance put out with the aim of understanding exactly what is proposed. The guidance is quite challenging to understand with many words like 'could', 'may', 'might' and this has created increased worry.

I want to thank all of you who have engaged with the questionnaire about the changes and your views are helping me to plan different eventualities. If you have not yet had a chance to share your views please do so via:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDCWJ8yf0jh9PLshL783owraWpMKAvLvIWpphTeYRLIkShFg/viewform>

My reason for writing to you today is to explain what we are currently doing as a school.

Since 23rd March we have been looking after the children of key workers who cannot work from home. We envisage that in coming weeks this childcare provision will need to be extended as more of you are expected to leave your home to return work.

Teachers have been planning and presenting learning opportunities for all children at home via Class Dojo, staff have also been checking in with you all to see how you and the children are. For the foreseeable future all of these measures will continue.

I am now planning if/how we can open school to larger numbers of children. I would like to emphasise to you that whatever decision is made, is made with the children's safety at the centre. I will not make a decision solely on the proviso that schools are to fully open. As well as thinking about our precious children I will also be thinking of Ringway's staff, their safety is also key to any plans.

In the weeks to come I may make decisions that some parents are unhappy with and I understand that the children really do want to be with their friends again. I also understand that it is not easy to keep children at home for a lengthy time. As I said, safety is my priority



01670 813463
FAX: 01670 813463
Email: - admin@guidepoststringway.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs Lisa Robson
Headteacher

and the way that Ringway is safe will not be the same as the way that neighbouring schools are safe, we are all unique. Every headteacher will be assessing their own school and the needs of their children and staff so we will not do things in an identical manner. I know though that every headteacher in the area is taking time to decide upon any changes.

One area of concern, which is understandable, is that children are not in usual education. At the beginning of lockdown I aimed to reassure you that the quality and quantity of 'school work' was not a priority. Yours and the children's mental wellbeing was the most important thing, this is still the case. We will deal with any learning issues when things return to normal, the whole world has been affected by the awful disease, do not worry about which parts of the curriculum your child may have missed.

Ultimately it will be you, the parents and carers, who will decide when your child returns to school if we are fully open. As a school we will respect your decision.

So to end, thank you for your support so far it has been magnificent. Please continue to support us and be patient but be reassured that your child's safety is at the heart of all decisions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Robson

Headteacher

