



**PURSTON INFANT SCHOOL**  
Nunn's Lane, Featherstone  
Tel: 01977 704344  
[www.purstoninfants.co.uk](http://www.purstoninfants.co.uk)

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the announcement by the government earlier this week and further written information sent out to schools, we are being expected to reopen our school and prioritise the youngest two year groups, nursery (Crocodiles) and reception (Elephants & Monkeys). As we are an infant school and not a through primary school the requirement does not include Year 1 (Kangaroos & Giraffes) and Year 2 (Lions & Tigers). I feel I have to make it clear that in my professional opinion, opening to the youngest children in our school is not the way I (and most other professionals) would have approached this. Starting with our oldest year group would have been a better solution as they would have a better understanding of the rules that will have to be in place.

The information we have currently been sent is beginning to detail what school is expected to do in order to 'safely' allow children back into the building. This includes

- Social distancing
- Staggered opening, closing, playtime and dinnertimes
- Frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- Regular intensive cleaning of school
- Smaller class sizes to minimise/avoid contact and mixing with others.

Whilst I can undertake many of these, it is impossible to ensure social distancing and avoidance of contact/mixing even if class/group sizes are at 15. The size of our classrooms but more importantly the nature of how our youngest children learn and interact will mean they do come into contact with each other and a minimum of four members of staff. (Not necessarily, their teacher and staff they would normally be with.)

All other guidance given by the government to other employers clearly states that social distancing is a key priority in order to not spread the virus. The guidance for schools is different in that it highlights that 'unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.'

With this in mind, I urge you to carefully consider whether you are willing to allow your children back into school with the measures I have stated above. I have to ask the parents of nursery and reception children whether they require a place in school as of the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. **Could the parents of Crocodiles, Elephants and Monkeys please email their child's class teacher no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.** The email addresses are as follows

Crocodiles (Miss Crossley) – [crocodilesclass@purston.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:crocodilesclass@purston.wakefield.sch.uk)

Elephants (Mrs Gascoyne) – [elephantsclass@purston.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:elephantsclass@purston.wakefield.sch.uk)

Monkeys (Mrs Hall & Miss Millward) – [monkeysclass@purston.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:monkeysclass@purston.wakefield.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support during this uncertain time.

Yours sincerely

*P Barnett*

P Barnett (Mr)  
Headteacher

The Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection is the Headteacher, Philip Barnett, supported by the Deputy Headteacher, Alison Gascoyne and Learning Mentor, Kerry Dyas.

Social Care Direct 0345 8503 503

[social\\_care\\_direct@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:social_care_direct@wakefield.gov.uk)

