

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



14th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

*'The Prime Minister has announced the government's roadmap for how and when the UK will adjust its response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, including the phased return of some children to school **from 1st June, at the earliest.**'*

Although the government is targeting the 1st June as a possible start time for schools to start to partially re-open, the message was very clear from the Prime Minister and reiterated in the latest guidance, that this could all change if infection rates start to increase again in the next few weeks / months.

The government has recognised that *'All schools are different, and it is not possible to set specific national guidelines that could be universally applicable.'*

The government has clarified that the phased return of Reception, Years 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12 groups described in guidance only apply to mainstream schools, NOT our children in special schools.

"Special schools, special post16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups."

I'm genuinely sorry that we cannot yet provide details of how we will be phasing the return of pupils into school. Although we want to see our pupils back in school we need to ensure that our plan to achieve this has the health, safety and well-being of the whole school community as our primary consideration.

The government has produced a planning framework that we are using to inform our preparations for safely opening our school buildings to more young people and staff after the 1st June. They have also advised that the framework will be developed further to provide more detailed guidance ahead of 1st June. It is hoped that this further guidance will help us finalise our plans.

There is recognition that many parents will continue to feel that the safest place for their child is at home. There is clear guidance that parents will not be fined if their child does not attend school at this time. To help inform our planning for opening our school buildings to more young people our staff will be asking your position on this. We will be further consulting with you to help us to best support pupils to return.

We will, in the meantime, maintain our remote learning provision and remain in regular contact. Please stay safe and look after yourselves. Once again thank you for your understanding and support with this ongoing pandemic situation and I will be in touch with more detailed information as soon as I can.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Rose', written in a cursive style.

Mark Rose
Executive Principal