



Hillcrest School
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Mrs A Mead, Head Teacher

8,6,20

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this difficult time. Many of you have sent us such kind and warm messages of support over the last few weeks. I want you to know these are greatly appreciated by all the Hillcrest team. I thought it best to update you all about what we have been doing and where we are at with our plans.

We have sent our Risk Assessments to the Unions, but cannot begin our wider opening until we are happy that we have mitigated all possible risks, had this confirmed by the Unions and then our plans agreed by the Governing Body.

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, for the first time since the partial closure of school, we are having all staff in school together so that we do staff induction, trial our additional safety measures, make sure that the environment will work with increased numbers and address any anxieties staff may be having about the return to school. The latter is extremely important as we need staff to be fully confident in their new environment before we increase numbers. At this time staff teams will also continue to work on the following:

- Updating pupil individual toolkits
- Developing individual resources for pupils to use (as pupils will not be allowed to share resources)
- Completing risk assessments on each pupil which takes in to account the current situation
- Liaising with OT about alternative strategies to use
- Planning our Recovery Curriculum
- Planning bespoke ways of supporting transition back to school

I appreciate how frustrating this may be for many of you who have expressed a desire to have your child back in school. In line with Government guidance we are creating a plan which prioritises pupil attendance based on key transitions and the impact on life chances and development. I will update you about any future plans as soon as I can once I hear back from the Unions. This will be a different offer to the 'usual' Hillcrest and will be on a rota basis, so we can accommodate the bespoke packages we will have to do.

Thank you for letting us know how your child is managing, what they are enjoying and the challenges they are facing. This ensures we can offer the very best support in these difficult times.

Take care. I hope to be in touch again at the end of the week.

Andrea Mead
Headteacher

