

Ref:	DRS	Enquiries to:	Springwell Learning Community
Date:	1.6.20	Email:	Springwell@springwellacademies.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Considerations for expanding onsite numbers in school

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. Following the letter we shared with you prior to half term from our CEO, I am writing to update you on our position regarding the Government's proposal to expand our onsite numbers from June 1st 2020.

I want to assure you that everyone at Springwell is looking forward to getting back to learning together as soon as we are guided to do so, and as safely as we can.

Below, I share with you, what we have provisionally planned in light of the Government's proposals so that you and your child are clear about the steps we are making towards expanding the number of pupils that we have on site at Springwell. As a Special and Alternative Academy, we won't be prioritising the return of specific year groups as set out in the guidance, but will move carefully and gradually towards a return to school for all of our children. In preparation for the first phase, we have begun contacting the first group of parents and carers of those children that we feel we can begin to bring back into school safely. This includes the vast majority of our Primary children.

In the short term, our Academies will be run very differently to how the pupils, staff and parents are used to it being. Your children need your support to help them understand this and be able to follow the plans that we have put in place to make the school sites as safe as possible. These include:

- A smaller number of children on site
- Smaller class sizes, with consistent adults, based in the same room
- Shorter school days
- A shorter school week
- A different classroom layout to ensure social distancing
- Staggered break times
- Lunch to be eaten in classrooms

Of course, we will discuss the details around this with you individually as and when we are able to bring your child back into school. As always, our plans are built around the individual needs of our children.

We will be reviewing our plans fortnightly from 8th June and hope to increase offers for more children depending on the local context regarding the impact of the virus. If you have not yet been contacted about your child returning to school, we will continue to support them through home learning, phone calls and home visits.

Over the last two months, Springwell staff have worked hard to stay in close contact, produce learning packs, home visits and regular phone calls. I assure you that this level of support will continue. We are

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here for you and this regular contact provides an opportunity to raise concerns, discuss support or ask any questions that you may have.

Can I thank you for your patience, support and understanding at this time.

Take care, stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Ross'.

Danny Ross
Executive Vice Principal

Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.

Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – “it’s completely fine to feel like that at the moment” or ‘I can really understand why you would feel like that”



Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your 'goodbye' routine and create a 'hello' greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.

