



**TRANSCRIPT OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED DURING THE LIVE ASSEMBLY HELD ON 21.05.20 AT
11.30AM**

If we don't feel comfortable sending children back initially, can we re-evaluate on a week-by-week basis?

I said at the beginning that creating these groups is really challenging, so if you don't want to send your child back on the 1st of June that's why I am asking the survey because that helps me start building a group.

If you don't want to send them in that is your choice but then it won't be as easy as dropping me a message and saying can they come back tomorrow. It could take me a few days it could take a few weeks depending on what the size of the groups I have in school. So yes, you can send them in later it might be that I may not be able to take them back as quick as I would like to take them back, but until we are in, I don't really know.

I also said on my letter that any parent that doesn't send their child in I will be giving you a phone call, it is not for me to tell you to send your children in it is not for me to put any pressure on you it is just so we can have that conversation because if you are thinking, I might send them in in July, that really helps me with my planning.

We have a child in as a Key worker and another in Yr R will we have to do separate drop offs and pickups for them both?

No, so on the letter it does say that you can bring them in. Let me have a look – it says 'for parents who have more than one child they will drop all the children off at the later time offered. So the latest time offered is Year R, so you bring all your children in with your Year R child, so they all come in at the later time and we will then send the Key worker child off to the right group.

And to collect?

You collect at the later time too

Can we drop them off earlier?

Unfortunately, no it has to be that time, the reason being that it is about if everybody drops off at the earlier time the staggered start won't happen so it has got to be, we are trying to create staggered time as much as possible.

When will we know about what teacher and friendship groups?

The teachers and the groups, to be honest I have a plan but until we have the number of children in I can't tell you. So even if you have responded to my survey, I can't email you back and say your child will be in the group with this teacher, the reason being the guidance is very clear I can get these surveys they are to help me plan, but if on that 1st of June any parent in Year R and Year 1 might have changed their mind and might now want to bring their child in and that's OK, that's absolutely fine. So, these surveys really are just to help me with the planning, but on that first day back I will be

prepared that some parent might change their mind and if you change your mind in Year R and Year 1 over the half term, you can still bring them in, that is absolutely fine. So yes, I won't be able to tell you what teachers and what groups at all because I could tell you and then on the first day it might need a tweak.

Can we offer breakfast club and after school club?

Mrs Pike is reminding me to say that we can't do Breakfast Club or After School Club and the reason why is because every group would need to have their own Breakfast Club and After School club. So, if I have got seven groups in the school then I will need seven After School Clubs and seven Breakfast Clubs, I haven't got the staff, so it can't be done. It is quite challenging to keep these groups separate.

Will Reception children still have their original teacher?

Very good question. We are planning that if you are a Reception child you will have either your teacher or TA in your group, the same for Year 1, you will know someone. You will either be in a group with your TA or in a group with your teacher. Key workers I can't promise you that – you could be with any member of my staff that I have available.

Will the normal teachers be sitting the work in the Google Classrooms?

Miss Parry will be teaching a group of 15 and she will still be setting the work on the Google Classroom. The current work, I agree, is an absolute credit but you are right the likelihood is it is going to change and that is a real shame. The government guidance is actually if we can keep up the work please do so but if not then the Oak National Academy is there to support children who aren't in school. We are very fortunate in that we are going to try and keep going with the Google Classroom but I do appreciate that if your child isn't in school it is going to be different, but the children who are in school will be doing the Google Classroom tasks as well so if a teacher has 15 Key Worker children and all 15 were the same year group, they will be teaching them the exact same thing as the 15 children sitting at home. So it is not like the children in school are going to get more at the moment. We are going to keep it that everyone is doing the Google Classroom to keep it fair for all children, whether it is going to change as we go through this I don't know because obviously the government have said that they would like schools to expand numbers in July, I am interested to know how we do that.

Is there a plan to extend the school hours in any way – 8.45 – 3.15 is really hard to work around for keyworkers – both of us are and our hours don't fit around this.

I totally understand if you are a Keyworker, at the moment there isn't because as I said the Key Worker group at the moment will span over three groups so I would need 3 After School Clubs and 3 Breakfast Clubs and I don't have the number of staff to do that because if everybody in those Keyworker groups needed it I would need 2 members of staff to manage that, it is very, very challenging. So, it is not going to be possible unfortunately to be able to do that but as soon as we can, if the guidance changes, we would love to do it. The other thing that is standing in our way of providing wrap around care as well is we would have to make sure we could obtain food. At the moment, getting food into school is really tricky. Obviously we want to get Year 6 in if we can and we would love to be able to support Key Workers better with wrap around care but at the moment I can't offer it and I appreciate that is really challenging.

So just to clarify say yes on survey if undecided and let you know on the 1st June?

Yes, correct. So if you think there is a chance that, by the time the 1st of June comes, (we are talking a week away, things are changing), if you think that in the next week there is a chance that you would change your mind please put YES on the survey and if you think no I'm not going to change my mind for the 1st of June then put NO. Then I will then be contacting you because your child won't be in and we can talk about it on the phone properly.

If it is confirmed that children can go to school can parents still keep their children at home if they are not sure they want to send their child/children back?

Yes it is 100% parent choice, completely and utterly parent choice. If you do not want to send your child in you do not need to send your child in. There is no penalty, no nothing. If you are in Year R and Year 1 I will be making a telephone call to you because that is what I've been asked to do but it is not to pressure you into sending your child back, this is your choice. It is very, very clear in all the government guidance, if you want to search the government guidance you are more than welcome to all you have to do is put in 'Schools reopening' to Google and you can find it all. They have made it very clear it is parental choice and if you don't want to send your child back it is absolutely fine.

If a child is really upset because they are worried or do not like the changes, will you call us to collect?

Of course, we will do everything to ensure that children are happy. Denmark, which is a very different country have been held up as doing this very successfully, and what I liked about what the headteacher over there said was they'd planned lots to make sure the children were OK. We have done the same and what he said was the children, just being around their friends, was enough to settle them but, of course, we will do everything to reassure them and look after them as if we would normally. If that is not working, of course, we would call you as the parent, but we would do everything in our power to reassure them first. Government guidance is very clear that the children's well-being is at the top of our priorities and it really is.

If you are scared and upset or worried will we have support by the teachers?

Of course we will, we are going to look after you. Please you don't need to be scared because we are going to do everything we can to reduce the risk. Normally if you are upset, we would look after you and we are going to do the same.

If you have any further questions please send them, via email, to office@lenham.kent.sch.uk