



Dear all,

I do hope you all had a lovely weekend, especially on Friday and Saturday with the glorious sunshine. Please do send through any photos of your VE Day celebrations.

I am sure, like me, you ended the weekend watching Boris Johnson's address to the nation last night. I also suspect, like me, that his speech raised many questions for you, in regard to your own work and of course in regard to your child's return to school.

As I have mentioned before, School Leaders are not privy to this information any earlier than you are – I was informed of the intended 'roadmap' for opening schools at the same moment you were last night. As of yet, whilst we have been told of the possible **who** and **when** we have received no information of the **how**. And of course, whilst we have been contemplating hypotheticals for a while now, we have not yet had long enough to explore the **how** after this new information was released last night. I know it is difficult, but I am asking for your patience whilst we navigate our way through this, and I promise that more information will be forthcoming to you as soon as we are able.

For now, I wanted to outline five key points:

1. Whilst we have received no specific guidance yet, please be reassured that **conversations are well underway**. Between myself, the Headship team, Senior Leaders, CFS staff, Governors and with local Headteachers. This is a priority.
2. It is vital that we all are mindful of the fact that **the who and when is far from certain either**. Whilst I think we can all agree that the following was implied last night - Year R, 1 and 6 may return in some capacity from half term at the earliest and Secondary pupils are unlikely to return before September, except for Years 10 and 12 getting time with their teachers later in the term – there are huge IFs surrounding this. It has been stated that this will only be if the virus is in a certain position by then. We will obviously prepare for this plan, but it is still far from certain.
3. **Please all continue to be kind to each other. The CFS spirit over the last few weeks has been stronger, and more united, than ever – let's not lose that.** Please understand that there are a variety of reactions likely after last night's speech from all of us in school – and all equally valid. Some of you may be very upset at the thought of your child possibly returning after half term. Equally, some of you may be very upset that yours are not. Some of you will be relieved that September looks more likely for your child, some of you will be relieved your child could be returning a lot sooner. There is no rule book on how you should be feeling. **At CFS please remember that all of us are part of the education of children aged 4 to 18**, and we need to be understanding of each other's situations and perspectives. Not all parents or pupils will be feeling the same.
4. I am in no doubt that **the creativity, wisdom, resilience and flexibility of the whole CFS team (parents and pupils included) will allow us to navigate this next chapter well.**
5. Have faith that, in every way possible, **the safety of your children will be at the forefront of everything we do.**

I understand that for many of you last night's speech may mean a return to work. **Please can I politely remind you that it is absolutely imperative that you inform us in advance if you are planning to use the childcare provision, and that we are still only able to support those children of key workers or those children who are considered vulnerable.** When sending your child for the first time, we will require proof of your key worker ID.

I am sure that you have a multitude of questions that you want answered. We hope to be able to answer many of these as soon as possible, but please bear with us.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise New
Principal