

# CALSHOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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May 22<sup>nd</sup>

## NEWSLETTER

[www.calshot.bham.sch.uk](http://www.calshot.bham.sch.uk)

I am sending an update of the latest developments that have occurred since my last newsletter. I have been in discussion with School Governors about how school can reopen and what changes have to be made. I have included letters from the Chair of Governors and the Governor responsible for Safeguarding to reassure you we are all working closely to provide the best outcomes for Calshot pupils, staff and families.

### Potential Return to School Change of Date

No doubt you have been following the news with interest regarding a potential partial reopening of school from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Many guidance documents have followed from the Department for Education, the Local Authority and various unions, and we have been working hard to keep on top of the guidance to try and find a way to bring children back safely and meaningfully. I have stipulated that we will only open when it is safe to do so. This means safe for the children, safe for the staff and safe for the families of children and staff. While some schools have declared themselves ready many others have said it will not be possible.

Government guidance is for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be prioritised for a return. As you might imagine this is highly complicated therefore the Governors and I met last night and have made a decision to not open on June 1<sup>st</sup> but instead aim for a June 8<sup>th</sup> start. A June 8<sup>th</sup> start is only on condition that it is deemed safe to do so and we meet the Health and Safety criteria set out by the Local Authority.

The next step is for us to complete our own risk assessment and finalise plans with all staff. These plans have to be sent back to the Local Authority to be agreed. Even once this is done everything is subject to change, depending on what happens to the national picture and advice when given. Ultimately, the decision on whether to send your child to school during partial reopening is yours. You will have to weigh up what the school offers and your own family circumstances. We will respect your decision, and unless the Government guidance changes, we do not intend to take any action as a result of non-attendance.

The keyworker provision that school currently has in place will continue after Whitsun as school will remain closed over the half term holiday. Keyworker provision will therefore resume on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue unless the Government tell us otherwise, regardless of whether some year groups come back to school.

## Letter from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents

I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and keeping well. The last couple of months have truly been extraordinary and challenging on so many fronts - it's difficult to know how best to return to some form of normal in our lives and at school.

Government briefings have been taking place in the evenings every day and some of the Prime Minister's announcements have been taking place on Sunday evenings. This has given very little time for Headteachers and their Senior Leadership Teams to react and work out plans for what to do in the best interest of the school. Headteachers and governors do not get sight of any information before the briefings take place; often the information is sent quite some time after the briefings. However, I'm pleased to say that Mr Wingrove and Miss Atterbury have been on the ball every time, thinking ahead, making plans, adjusting plans and reacting to announcements at short notice and all the time communicating and listening to staff and parents.

The Governing Body has been kept up to date at all times and we have been working with the school to make decisions; through formal meetings, emails and often speaking on a daily basis. Whilst the restrictions mean that we cannot meet in person, like many of you, we have been meeting virtually.

Earlier this week, we had a full governing body meeting and reviewed the plans for the re-opening of Calshot for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in line with the current date the government is proposing which is also subject to the 5 tests that have been outlined being met. Mr Wingrove has drawn up comprehensive plans and we are confident that all areas of safety for staff, children and parents have been thought about and I know the school has been in touch with parents to check how they are and to understand which children may be returning to school. We understand that is a difficult decision for parents and would like to re-iterate that sending your children back to school is not mandatory and you will not be penalised if you choose not to send your children back to school. The school will continue to support those children who cannot return to school yet with online homework through Marvellous Me. The teachers have been doing a wonderful job creating work for use during the lockdown as well as preparing resources and planning for how classes will run when children return. The newsletter that was sent to children on 4<sup>th</sup> May was wonderful and touching and we hope your children enjoyed reading it and hearing from all of their teachers.

Since our meeting on Monday, further guidance and information has been released and the governing body met again last night to review our decisions. We felt that staff needed a little more time to be fully prepared for the school re-opening. It's not helpful that government announcements regarding the 5 tests will be made during the half-term holiday when we would like our staff to be able to have a full break rather than having to react to any changes and so we have agreed that the earliest the school will re-open will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June subject to any further government and local authority announcements guidance and the 5 tests being met.

We hope you will continue to support the school in the way that you have been doing already and especially when school does start again. The staff will need your full co-operation to make sure that the new systems that will be put into place are adhered to for the safety of the children and staff.

I'd like to take this opportunity to commend Mr Wingrove and Miss Atterbury for the work they have put into negotiating the school through this unprecedented situation and all the staff for galvanising themselves to react to the challenge and the excellent teamwork they have shown. Thank you to all the parents who have been patient and supportive and to the school and we hope that all the children are managing well away from school. We can't wait to have the school full again and see their wonderful smiles, their voices echoing in the school playground and the magic of Calshot returning so that they can all continue to aim high!

On behalf of the Governing Body

Dharmesh Rajput, Chair

### Letter from Safeguarding Governor

Dear Parents

During this unprecedented period it is important that we come together as a community to ensure that our children and our families are keeping safe and well. As news is continuously changing in relation to Covid-19, the safeguarding of our children, parents/carers and staff remains paramount and is always a priority.

I would like to provide some reassurance and comfort by letting you know that Mr Wingrove supported by Calshot Staff and Governors are doing their utmost to maintain a continuous commitment to safeguarding our Calshot children, families and staff. The ever-changing situation that we are in is being carefully monitored, whilst following NHS and Governmental recommendations.

Extra special care and arrangements are being carried out to make sure that safe, smooth transitions are made when children do return to school, which will allow for Mr Wingrove, and the Calshot staff to continue to deliver the best educational journey possible in these new times.

Stay Safe and Keep Well

Regards

Mrs Seraton (Parent and Safeguarding Link Governor)

If you have any queries, please contact the main school office.

Mr. M. Wingrove

(Head Teacher)

