

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We Learn, We Lead, We Inspire

In these last days of Ramadhan and before half term commences, it is worth reflecting on things about which we can be pleased with. The resilience of your children is certainly one, as they manage remarkably with online learning and lockdown restrictions that are very alien to them. The dedication of their teachers is another, as they work harder than ever to ensure that learning continues swiftly. The third is the sense of community which has seen everyone pulling together and trying to support each other. The EYFS online baking class for Eid saw a tremendous turnout of pupils, parents and indeed the extended family of our children. What a real treat!

I want to write to you before half term to share the decisions that Iqra has made about pupils returning to school. Iqra school will re-open its doors for pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 6, pupils of key workers and pupils from the most vulnerable families. This return will be on the 2nd June.

However, the return to school will not be the same as it was before lockdown. In accordance with the very stringent advice from the government, local authority, unions, and many other organisations, there will be in place many strict rules for pupils, parents and staff. Further detailed guidance for pupils, parents and staff, that will have to be adhered to for now and the future, will be sent out next week. Please read these guidelines carefully and discuss them with your children. However, we cannot 'guarantee' the safety of the school community as some children returning to school are very young and may not adhere to the social distancing rules.

The school day will be very different for those pupils returning to school. The school times will be staggered to enforce social distancing. Detailed information about timings will be sent to you by your class teachers next week.

- Parents will **not** be allowed onto school premises and will drop off/pick up their children at the school gates.
- Classes will be split into smaller groups of no more than 15 in a class for younger children and 12 in a class for Year 6.
- Pupils may not be in their usual classrooms and may be taught by a teacher who is **not** their usual teacher.
- Break and lunch times will be in classrooms, at their allocated desks, with limited resources to further reduce contact.

For many children, especially those in Reception and Year 1, this sterile environment may be, quite frankly, very scary and very daunting. However, Iqra school has a duty of care to all pupils, parents and staff to enforce the strict guidelines around the school as recommended by the Government.

Sadly, there will be no further online Zoom lessons for pupils as class teachers will be very busy teaching in school. However, we will continue to provide Educational Activities online including homework every Friday. The government has recommended Oak National Academy online learning resources for those pupils not attending school (please see the school website).

Finally, I would like to thank all parents for their responses to the online questionnaire regarding re-opening of school in June. Iqra school has taken the decision to re-open on the 2nd June but will review this after the first week. It may be that we adjust the school timetable and the school day after this review. We will keep you all updated regarding any decisions.

Please note that schools in Slough will be approaching the situation to re-open schools in their own unique way; none are right or wrong. We are all trying to do the best for the children in our care. I do hope you and your families are keeping safe and I wish you all Eid Mubarak.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mineza Maher
Iqra School Head Teacher.