12th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are healthy, safe, and well.

As you will probably have seen, the Prime Minister has set out the Government’s plan to begin to gradually ease the lockdown arrangements gradually over the coming months.

The implications for schools remains unclear and is different for primary and secondary schools. The Government has said that it would like to be able to begin a phased reopening of primary schools for children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 at the beginning of June. For secondary students, the hope is that students in Year 10 and Year 12, who will be doing exams next year, will get at least some time with their teachers before the summer holidays, but no specific timeframe has been suggested yet.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of our students again in person. We know that the best thing for their education is for them to be back at school - but only when it is safe for them, and our staff, to do so.

I have attached a commonly asked Q&A for parents. Once we have reviewed the Government’s guidance and then developed our specific plans, I will update you with more details. For now, please continue to encourage and support your child/ren to complete the schoolwork they have been set and to maintain a healthy and active daily routine. Please also continue to follow the NHS advice on Coronavirus.

If you need any further information or help, please contact the school on 020 8911 6666 or email info@isaacnewtonacademy.org.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal
Partial reopening of schools - Some answers to parents’ questions

Can my child return to school?
From the week commencing 1st June, the government is asking:

- primary schools to welcome back children in nursery (where they have them), Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. **At INA this is Reception and Year 1**
- secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges to begin some face to face support with Year 10 and 12 pupils, although they do not expect these pupils to return on a full-time basis at this stage
- schools to continue to offer places to the priority groups – vulnerable children and children of critical workers – whom they have been supporting since the end of March

What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?

- The government is asking that children in the above year groups (at INA this is Reception and Year 1) return to schools from 1st June. **This does not include siblings in different year groups** unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers.
- The government hopes that all primary school children can come back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, although this will be kept under review.

How will risks to children, teachers and families be managed?

- The government has provided guidance and support to schools, colleges **implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings** to help them to reduce the risk of transmission as more children and young people return. **At INA we are working closely with Ark and taking guidance from the Ark central team on how best to ensure that our children, staff and families stay safe. We will ensure that this is all in place by June 1st and will share more details with you before the half term break.**

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

- The government is strongly encouraging children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, as requested by their school or college, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).
- Parents should notify INA as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you. We will share arrangements for how we will manage attendance with you before half term.
- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Do all vulnerable children and young people who are not currently attending have to go back to school now?

- We will continue to offer places to priority groups in our community classrooms. In particular, vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected and encouraged to attend INA’s community classroom provision where it is appropriate for them to do so.