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| **Highworth Combined School** |
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| Dear all Apologies for not welcoming you back to the final half term of the school year yesterday. I am delighted to say that our first day back went very smoothly, but the temptation to spend time with children and adults who I had not seen for such a long time was too much for me and I did not find the time to write!  Traditionally we would all be looking forward to the most ‘sociable’ half term of the year with more events than I care to think about, given that we will miss out on them this year. I’m sure that this makes you and your children as sad as those of us at school who look forward to this term with such relish. I hope to be able to offer some ‘virtual’ alternatives and more information will follow.  I need to say a huge thank you to all of you who brought your children back to school yesterday, and to our amazing staff team, for being so attentive to the new rules. This meant that all the changes we have made were successfully implemented and everyone stayed as safe as possible.  Those of you with children from year groups eligible for return to school have had agonising decisions to make. I am thankful that as a parent of much older children, I have not had to make the choices you have! It is so very difficult to know what the right decision is with so much conflicting information in the media. Please know that all at Highworth will support whatever you believe to be right for your child and your family. We are thrilled to see our returning pupils, but equally understand and support those of you who do not wish to send your children back just yet.  In the coming weeks, it may be that some of you with children in eligible year groups review your decision and decide that you would like them to return. We are very happy to accommodate such requests, but need to know in advance that this is the case so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Please note the following if your child is going to return to school:• email us at: reception@highworthcombined.co.uk.• Send the email by the end of Wednesday for a start date in the following week (e.g. email on Wednesday 10th June for your child to return during week commencing 15th June)• We will send you a message by Eschools confirming that a place has been allocated and on which days• We are not able to offer a choice of Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday as we have to ensure that the ‘pods’ remain of equal size• Your child will be able to return to school on the date specified in the confirmation letterAs you know, the Government has stated that it’s ‘ambition’ is to have all primary school children back in school for a month before the Summer Holidays. At present, I am not sure how to make that work for our school given the new ways of working and their limitations. However, I will be giving it lots of thought, watching the news and making plans to share with you at an appropriate time. As ever, my very best wishes to you and your family Clare Pankhania  |

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