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| **Highworth Combined School** |
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| Dear allOn Friday evening, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced that the Government’s intention was for all pupils to return to school full time in September. This is excellent news as I know that all in the Highworth community are united in wanting to see a safe return to some kind of normality at the earliest possible opportunity. The announcement did, however, come as a little bit of a surprise as it is tricky to know how our current hierarchy of controls could be scaled up to work when the school is at full capacity. I know that parents continue to be gravely concerned about how safe a return to school is; currently 75% of you are choosing to keep children eligible to attend at home so it is clear that the Government and myself and have a great deal of work to do to reassure you that your children will be safe at school. Mr Williamson promised guidance for schools ‘within the next fortnight’. Needless to say, we will be eagerly awaiting this guidance so that we can start to formulate a plan for Highworth that will explain how all pupils will be kept safe when they return for the new academic year. I hope it goes without saying that we will share this with you at the earliest possible opportunity, but sadly, this will not be for a few weeks yet.Finally, I should say that ultimately the decision about safe opening in September will be made by David Thomas, Chair of Governors, and myself. We will only open full time to all pupils if we are convinced that the Government guidance can be effectively implemented in our school to keep your children safe. My very best wishes to you all Clare Pankhania |

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