



Headteacher
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Tuesday 26th May 2020

Partial Reopening of Our School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start this letter by saying a massive thank you for all of the support that you have shown during this time of national crisis. Your kind words and supportive emails and videos have been invaluable to us.

This letter will provide you with detailed information as we prepare to implement the government's plan for schools to open to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as continue to care for Key Worker and vulnerable children, and support those children still at home.

It is important to note that our plans are dynamic and will depend upon the most recent government decisions, and our staff availability. As you will be aware, these changes are being planned to be implemented from the earliest of 1st June. At the time of this letter, no date for reopening schools has been confirmed. The Government will make the decision on 28th May whether to move into Step 2 of coming out of lockdown.

Many people are divided on whether a return to school is a good or bad thing. We will continue to support all children and families whether you continue to keep your child at home or send them into school.

Prioritising Year groups

Following government guidance, our first task was to prioritise the key worker and the vulnerable children for school places. Once we had done this, we had to work out our maximum number of pupil places available, based on the number of classrooms, staff available and maximum group sizes of up to 15. This means that we are able to invite back the following year groups: • Key Worker and Vulnerable children on Monday 1st June • Reception on Thursday 4th June • Year 1 on Monday 8th June • Until further notice ALL other year groups must continue to stay at home and can access our online provision.

Attendance

The government has made it clear that there will be no implications or fines for families that choose not to send their children to school. Individual families are in the best place to decide what to do. Factors that you must consider include:

- underlying health issues of your child and family members - your own interpretation of the current risk to your child / family of being in contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.

Children should **not** attend in school uniform – clean clothes are required each day. A water bottle and packed lunch is also required for those not in receipt of Free School Meals. All children will need a healthy snack for morning break as our normal fruit delivery has not yet been reinstated.

You will be told by the end of the week which colour bubble your child will be in, where they will be based and who their supervising staff are.

Key Worker and vulnerable children from 1st June

Key Worker children arriving for extended hours childcare from 7:45am will enter the school at the main reception office. This door will close at 8:30am. If you require to speak to someone from the main office after 8:30am, please call the school phone number for attention. If arriving for collection after 3:30pm, please come to the main reception office for collection.

We will need to know which days your child/children will be in and if for whatever reason, they are not, you will need to notify the school office of their absence.

Vulnerable children will access the normal school hours and not extended childcare.

Reception Children from Thursday 4th June

Our children in Reception will be in groups of up to 10.

We ask you to arrive on school site, follow the 2-meter floor markings into the large KS2 playground, and wait at your allocated bubble colour. Reception children must be accompanied by 1 adult from their household and arrive between 08:45 and 09:00am.

Parents of these children will need to come to their allocated class sign in the playground where the children will be welcomed by a member of staff. You will be asked to stand on the bubble line with your child.

Reception children are to be collected at 15:00 from their bubble base in the playground at the end of the day (unless you are a Key Worker and require additional hours).

Year 1 children from Monday 8th June

Our Year 1 children will be in groups of up to 15, and these children will be based in the Year 1 classrooms. You will also be asked to line up in the main KS2 playground at your bubble colour, morning arrival and afternoon collection. Children in Year 1 need to arrive at school with 1 adult from their household between 8:30 and 8:45am.

Year 1 children need to be collected at 15:15 from the bubble lines in the playground.

We ask that when waiting, that you adhere to the social distancing rules.

Year 6 children

We are not able to accommodate all of Year 6 children in school. For those of you that have requested a Key Worker place for your child in Year 6, we have been able to accommodate it.

Keeping Children and Staff Safe

We are following government advice to keep our children and staff safe, so for example: • Children will be split into groups of no more than 15 • Individual groups will not mix • Each group will be allocated two key adults (this is unlikely to be your child's regular teacher) • Chairs will be spaced so children can sit 2 metres apart. • Soft furnishing / resources that cannot be cleaned daily will be removed.

We will attempt to maintain social distancing rules and will teach the importance of good hygiene and personal space. Bubbles will be kept apart at play and breaktimes. Children will use toilets that have been allocated to their bubble base.

As it currently stands, we are able to staff each base with two adults who will remain the same throughout the week. It is unlikely that your child will be taught by their current class teacher but wherever possible we have ensured that there is a known adult in their base.

We will provide stationery and all resources for children, and politely request that children do not bring in their own. Where possible, we do not want objects from home coming into school and vice versa, especially soft toys as these cannot be cleaned effectively.

Dropping off times

To support in reducing any size of gathering on site, all groups have a staggered drop off and pick up time slot, from the KS2 playground unless you are a Key Worker and are accessing extended childcare hours. It is vital that you stick to these timings and do not arrive early or late wherever possible. There will be markings outside to help everyone to adhere to the 2-metre social distancing guidance. In addition to this, only one parent will be allowed to accompany their child onto site and, again, we politely ask that any toddlers or younger children accompanying parents are either in buggies or kept closely by their parent. A swift departure of the school site will be required to enable the next group to arrive.

Cleaning of key areas

The school will be clean every morning and evening. The 'heavier-use' areas will be cleaned again at lunchtimes – toilets, door handles, etc.

School Meals

All children will have a packed lunch in school – either at their bubble space in the classroom or in their designated outside space if the weather is fine. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, then a packed lunch will be provided by the school kitchen. Children who are in school and in receipt of Free School Meals will no longer receive a FSM food voucher.

KS1 Universal school meal provision will be reinstated on Monday 1st June and so every child attending school in these year groups is eligible to receive a packed lunch from the school kitchen.

In the event of a child / adult showing symptoms of COVID-19

If a child/member of staff is suspected of having COVID-19, ALL families in the bubble will be informed that day (without disclosing the information of who the person/child is). The school will contact Public Health and will be directed by their advice. Families can decide if they wish to take precautionary measures themselves.

If a child/adult tests positive for the virus, families will be notified, the school will close for deep cleaning and all members of staff / children who were in attendance at the school will be expected to self-isolate as per government advice.

Home learning and the curriculum

Please do not worry if your child is in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, or if you are keeping your EYFS and Y1 children at home, we will continue to provide home learning. All learning will be continued using the weekly tasks published on Class Dojo whether the children are at school or at home. In order for us to extend our provision in school, and follow government guidance for size of groupings, every available member of staff has been used, and so the majority of us will be in school every day every week. It would be impossible (and unreasonable) for them to plan for home learning and reinstate the full curriculum for those at school. We will use the same online planning and resources in school, to deliver the national curriculum and year group objectives. Your child's class teacher may not be the one to manage Class Dojo, as they could be the one delivering learning in the bubble.

Keeping in touch and communication

It has actually been very difficult to arrive at many of these decisions and to write this letter, but we know that you understand the reasons these rules are in place, and will support us in implementing these stringent measures to keep us all as safe as we can be.

We ask that no parent accesses the inside of the school building, including the foyer and school office, but instead communicates with us via email in the first instance. For more urgent enquiries, the school telephone will be manned from 1st June.

We also ask that you leave the site promptly after drop off and collection of your children and to avoid gathering on site.

For those children at home, please continue to send in photos of your children's learning – we love seeing them! We will also continue to phone you whilst at home accessing learning and to offer our support, although please be aware this might not be by your child's usual class teacher. It is likely that staff who have to work from home as they are shielded or critically vulnerable will take up this to support their colleagues.

In Conclusion

I want to reassure you that we are looking forward to seeing more of our pupils over the coming months. We will, as always, communicate with you fully, openly and promptly as plans evolve and change and as more information from the government becomes available.

We will do all we can to welcome your children back into a warm environment and make them feel as happy and safe as we possibly can.

If you have any further questions that you would like clarifying, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Please note, any child who is known to be mixing with members of another household, will have their place withdrawn.

Thank you for your cooperation.

All the very best, Mrs May

Headteacher