



21 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

SCHOOL OPENING TO GROUPS AS GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

As you will know, we are responding to the Government's request to open school again for at least some year groups from 1st of June. The greatest desire we all share for our children is to get them back to school. However, we all know that this cannot take place at any price, and that the health and safety of everybody concerned in opening our schools is paramount. This has been at the heart of the decisions myself and the governors have made.

In agreeing the plan we have taken into account the following; DfE guidelines (Opening schools for more children and young people: initial planning framework); Local Authority and the guidance that is offered by medical and scientific officers who are commissioned to assist in responding to the Covid-19 crisis and the gradual move out of lockdown.

We have made a comprehensive and thorough risk assessment that fits the context of our school. You will realise that due to pre-existing conditions we have some staff that are advised not to be on site, at the present time, two of those are teachers, one a teaching assistant, one a cleaner and midday supervisor and one other. Hopefully, before we are fully opened I will have some of these staff made available to school.

I propose re-opening the school in a carefully considered way, which will be phased and allow us the time to monitor and manage all the Health and Safety requirements before increasing the number of children. The table below shows our plan:

	Year 6	Year 1	Year Reception	Year Nursery
Week 1 Monday 1 st June NO CHILDREN IN MONDAY & WEDNESDAY (except keyworker & disadvantaged)	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings only: 9.30am-12.30pm Not Wednesdays	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings only: 9.15am-12.15pm	NO CHILDREN (except keyworker & disadvantaged)	
Week 2 Monday 8 th June NO CHILDREN WEDNESDAY (except keyworker & disadvantaged)	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday all day: 9.30am- 3.00 pm Not Wednesdays	Monday and Tuesday all day: 9.15am-3.15pm	Thursday and Friday morning only: 9.15am-12.15pm	NO CHILDREN (except keyworker & disadvantaged)
Week 3 Monday 15 th June NO CHILDREN WEDNESDAY (except keyworker & disadvantaged)	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday all day - 9.30 AM- 3.00 pm Not Wednesdays	Monday and Tuesday all day: 9.15am-3.15pm	Thursday and Friday all day: 9.15am-3.15pm	Nursery to be confirmed – but hopefully small groups from this week.
Week 4 - 8 Monday 22 nd June until end of term	To be confirmed When the government give direction			

NB: The school will not be open on Wednesdays to allow for deep –cleaning of the classrooms and PPA for teachers.

There will be no Before and After School Club as it is not safe to cross bubbles from one to another.

This timetable will be reviewed each week, reflecting on our practice in school and in relation to new advice. We will let you know immediately, should there be any changes.

If your child is in years 2, 3, 4 or 5, they should **remain at home** until further recommendations from the Government. Home learning will no longer be provided in advance for eligible year groups in school but there will be signposting to relevant materials online(except year 6 who will work on google classrooms in school).

Teachers are now being expected to teach so will not be able to go into the same level of detail with google classroom

If your child is already in school and they are children of key workers or disadvantaged they can come into school at 8.55am and leave at 3.20 pm.

Please remember you can no longer use the carpark as it will be locked.

If you have not responded to the google survey about returning to school and decide you want to send your child to school, please let the office know 48 hours before you wish them to return.

On arrival at school, parents will find the gates locked and only the pedestrian gate open. They pass through the gate and position themselves and their child on one of the 2m distanced markers and wait until the head teacher says it is time for them to go in.

Please do not gather to chat or else that puts all of us at risk. You must leave the premises immediately after you have dropped off your child. If you have a message for the teacher, please write down and put in envelope and give to the adult welcoming the children in.

Outside learning will be promoted as it is a way to stay safer in the outdoors.

You must provide your child with a waterproof coat and sensible school shoes, wellies may be brought if it is inclement weather. School uniform will need to be worn clean each day and children must have a PE bag on site all week.

Please also bring a water bottle and packed lunch in disposable bag. Children in Reception and Year 1 are still eligible for Universal free school meals. However, the school meal menu is limited to a deli bag option only. Please see the choices available from 8 June 2020. The deli option for the first week back has not yet been confirmed.

Clearly this a very difficult time for everyone, but it is very important that we are confident that everyone, both children and staff are safe when they come into school.

We are focussed on making our school as safe as it possibly can be. We have missed our children and families very much and we look forward to seeing you all again.

Below are some frequently asked questions and answers.

Questions and Answers

1. How will our children be kept apart from others during the school day?

We all, including the Government, realise that keeping young children apart is very difficult. What we will do is work with children in smaller groups, which they will stay in all the time to prevent mixing and cross contamination.

- Children will be in groups of no more than 15 in each classroom- probably less
- Where there are desks, these will be moved apart to allow 2 metres between each child's chair
- Children and staff will stay within their 'group bubble' all day
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be at different times so that mixing of groups doesn't happen

2. How will you keep everything clean?

- Cleaning will happen every day, focusing on those things that have been touched / played with during the day
- On Wednesday deep- cleaning will be completed in preparation for the second half of the week
- Things that are difficult to clean such as soft toys and cushions, will be removed from the classrooms
- Children and adults will wash their hands with soap on arriving at school and regularly during the school day
- Extra stocks of soap and sanitisers have been bought in
- Children will each be given their own pencils, pens and paper in a bag so that they do not have to share these with other children. These will remain at school.

3. Will my child have lunch in school?

- Lunches will be provided in school, however, only the deli options will be available. (For year 1 and Reception these will be free)
- The children can have packed lunches from home clearly labelled with name in a disposable bag
- They will eat in their 'group bubble' in the classroom to eat lunch or picnic outside
- Water bottles can be brought in, clearly labelled with name

4. Will my child have their own teacher in their group?

- Working in smaller groups will mean that not all children will be with their own teacher
- Some teachers will not be able to be in school because they need to isolate at home
- All groups will have a named adult leading their group and, we will make every effort to ensure there is a familiar adult working with each group

5. What if my child or someone else in my child's group is coughing?

- Any child showing symptoms should not be brought into school and should take a test for the virus
- If a family member at home is showing symptoms, the child should not come into school until it is confirmed that they are clear of the virus
- If a child starts showing symptoms in school, they will immediately be removed from the group and taken to a separate room
- The school will take their temperature and call home

- The first aider who deals with them will have PPE on
- The expectation will be that, if a child is sent home due to symptoms, the parent will ensure that their child is tested for the virus and let the school know whether they have the virus or not
- If the virus is confirmed, the children and staff who have been with the child, will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days

6. Will I be penalised for keeping my child at home?

- No. We will respect your decision.

7. Will there be any trips out of school or assemblies/ plays within school?

- There will not be trips out of school or assemblies/plays in school for the foreseeable future
- We will plan how year 6 children can celebrate the end of their primary school journey, since we do want to recognise that this is an important time for them. Further information will be given nearer the time

8. Will staff or children wear masks?

- The Government is very clear that the wearing of masks is not necessary in school.
- However, for specific situations such as dealing with sick children, the school has some masks, gloves and aprons , which can be used

9. How do I drop my child off at school safely?

- For the first three weeks the children should enter the school through the reception office area adhering to the 2m markings.
- The starting and collection times will be staggered so that only a few adults come into the school carpark at a time
- Only one parent/carer can drop off and collect each day
- Markers will be on the floor to ensure that adults wait 2m away from each other

10. What happens for my child, if they are not in one of the year groups starting back at school?

- Home learning will continue in the way it is now
- The Government have said that it is their ambition that all children will be back in school before the end of the school year. This may not be possible but we await further advice