



Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am contacting you today in the hope that you are all safe and well. These remain worrying times for everybody and we are all having to change and adapt as new information is released. First of all, I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding in awaiting this information. I appreciate that you have been waiting a few weeks since the Prime Minister talked about the wider opening of schools. I hope you understand that these decisions take careful planning and consideration and that the care and safety of our school community is our main priority.

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, our governing body met to discuss the risk assessments and action plans that have been created by our senior leaders. The governors have agreed to the implementation of these plans and risk assessments and these will now be shared with the Local Authority. Below is a summary of the decisions that were made:

- The school will open to more children on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.
- Initially, we will be inviting our **Year 6 pupils only**.
- The Year 6 teachers will be contacting their families to see who will be sending their child back to school. Once we have this information, we will be able to share plans for start times, etc with the Year 6 families.
- Governors will hold another meeting on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**. At this meeting, they will review the action plans and risk assessments and they will make a decision about opening the school to more pupils from the identified year groups (Nursery, Reception and Year One).
- From **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**, I will update our families on the decisions made at this meeting.

I know from our parent survey that some families are concerned about sending their children back to school and so we have produced a set of questions and answers to hopefully help you gain a clearer understanding. (Please see below).

The reality of ensuring that children (in particular young children) social distance is very difficult. There will be times when we cannot prevent children from being too close to each other. However, we will endeavour to implement a series of social distancing measures in line with the government guidance and we will do what we can to reduce the risks that this situation presents.

Should you have any further questions that we have not addressed, please feel free to contact us to discuss them.

Again, I would like to thank you for your continued support in such challenging time. We understand that many parents and carers remain concerned about the safety and wellbeing of their children and it will be up to individual families to make the decision as to what is best for them.

Yours sincerely,

*Zaira Cook*

## Frequently asked questions with regards to the wider opening of schools during COVID-19

Questions	What are we doing to manage the risk? What is already in place?
<b>Is there enough space in the classrooms to enable social distancing?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classes will be grouped between 8 -10 pupils depending on the size of the class and the classroom. This could mean that one year group would be spilt across three classrooms.</li> <li>• Classes will stay in these new groups for as long as social distancing measures are in place.</li> <li>• Groups will not mix during the school day.</li> <li>• As per the government guidance, it will not be possible to implement social distancing with the youngest pupils.</li> <li>• There will be times when we cannot prevent the youngest children being too close to each other.</li> <li>• Desks/children will be spaced as far as possible apart and we may remove some of the other usual furniture from the class to create extra space.</li> <li>• The youngest children will not be sat at individual desks as this is not appropriate for their age.</li> <li>• We will encourage teachers to keep doors and windows propped open to improve ventilation in classrooms. Where possible, we will use the outdoor environment for learning.</li> </ul>
<b>Are there enough teachers to cover all the groups of children?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If all of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 return to school, we will not have enough teachers to allocate one to each group of children.</li> <li>• This will mean some children will not be taught by their usual class teacher.</li> <li>• As there are not enough teachers to cover each group, we will use our learning support assistants, under the guidance of the teachers, to supervise groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Are there adequate handwashing facilities for children and staff to access?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will continue to ensure there are adequate washing facilities available for handwashing.</li> <li>• The school community will be asked to wash their hands on arriving to school and then at intervals throughout the day including before/after break and before/after lunchtimes.</li> <li>• Hand sanitiser will also be available for adults.</li> </ul>
<b>How will arrival at school and collecting from school be managed to implement social distancing?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only one parent/family member should bring their child to school.</li> <li>• Children will be allocated specific entry and exit doors and there will be a one way system implemented on the school grounds.</li> <li>• We will need to adjust start and finish times to enable distancing. These times will be confirmed and shared once we know how many children will be attending school.</li> <li>• Parents/carers should not come within 2 metres of the doorway and should keep 2 metres away from other parents/carers and staff at all times. The school grounds will be clearly marked with 2 metre distances.</li> </ul>
<b>How will break and lunch times be managed to implement social distancing?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch times and break times will be staggered to try to ensure social distancing.</li> <li>• School dinners will be provided in the form of a packed lunch due to the staggered times and different eating areas.</li> <li>• Groups will be allocated specific times in their classrooms to eat their lunch to prevent mixing.</li> <li>• Access to play equipment may need to be prevented to reduce possible transmission.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Will teachers be wearing PPE? Is it needed for pupils?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government guidance is that masks/face coverings are not recommended for staff and pupils in a school setting.</li> <li>• PPE is only required for staff if it is normally used to support pupils with intimate care or if a child presents in school with a high temperature or a new cough by the person supervising them until they are collected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Will my child be learning as normal and following the regular curriculum?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will have the flexibility to provide an education as we see fit during this time.</li> <li>• We will continue to support the children with developing key learning skills such as English and Maths, but we may not follow the planned curriculum that children would normally be learning this term.</li> <li>• Online learning platforms will continue to stay in place for the remainder of the summer term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How will we keep all the continuous provision resources clean in the Early Years?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will not be practically possible to clean all the resources that the children use in the classroom every day.</li> <li>• High frequency touch points will be cleaned more regularly such as table tops, door handles, etc.</li> <li>• Each group of children will be required to use the same classroom each day and stay in the same room wherever possible.</li> <li>• Access to fixed outdoor play equipment may need to be prevented to reduce possible transmission.</li> <li>• Some equipment may be removed from the classroom due to the inability to keep it regularly cleaned.</li> <li>• The shared sand and water trays will not be in use during this time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>My child is in Year 6. What will school look like for them?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils and parents should be aware that we will not be able to facilitate the usual lessons/activities that would happen at the end of the school year. Activities such as the Year 6 production, transition activities to secondary school, discos and the trip to London are not going to be possible under the current guidelines.</li> <li>• Due to the separation of classes, some children will not be with the class teacher and all of their class mates.</li> <li>• Depending on the number of groups that we have, the children will either be split across three classrooms – Y6, Y5 and Y4.</li> <li>• Each child will have their own table with their own resources at a distance of 2 metres apart.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Will my child be sent home learning and/or provided with tasks to do at home if they do not come back to school?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue to provide an education as best we can as we have been for the last few months for all children who remain at home. Please be mindful that teachers are also going to be in school teaching so they may not be able to communicate as often online.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I have received a text/letter from my GP to advise that my child is vulnerable. What should I do?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who are in this category should not attend school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A member of my household is vulnerable. Should I send my child to school?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current guidance states that children can attend school if there is a member of your household who has been classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable'. You should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will be able to observe social distancing measures all of the time and this may put your household member at risk.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Will I be able to see the risk assessments that the school have in place?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the risk assessments have been agreed by the Local Authority, we will upload them on to the school website for your information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What will happen if I do not want to bring my child to school? Will I be penalised for not sending my child to school?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are being asked by the Department for Education to record children's attendance as we would normally in the daily registers. However, during this time, parents and carers <b>will not</b> be fined for non-attendance. This means their attendance will not be affected and no fines issued.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What happens if my child develops symptoms after attending school?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff and pupils who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and they must get tested if they have symptoms.</li> <li>If a child or staff member develops symptoms of coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to take a test. Whilst waiting for the results, the child/staff member should self-isolate for 7 days and their household member for 14 days.</li> <li>Where a child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the household can end their self-isolation.</li> <li>Where a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group goes on to develop symptoms.</li> <li>Please ensure the details that we hold for you are up to date. Should your child become ill, we will need to contact you urgently.</li> </ul>
<p><b>When will I know more information about when my child can come to school if they are not in one of the already identified year groups?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The identified year groups are Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.</li> <li>We will begin our wider opening to Year 6 on <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>.</li> <li>We will continue to monitor our risk assessments to look at when it could be possible to allow another identified year group to attend.</li> <li>For the other year groups (Y2, Y3, Y4 &amp; Y5) under the current social distancing guidelines, we do not have the staff or building capacity to split all these year groups. We will need further government guidance before any other children are asked to return to school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Will the School Office be open as normal?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would encourage parents/carers to ring the office rather than come in person if possible.</li> <li>If you must attend, please be aware that parents will be asked to follow the social distancing measures.</li> <li>Only one person at a time would be able to wait in the entrance.</li> <li>The office window will remain closed while speaking to any parents/carers. It will only be opened to pass items through at a time when they have moved 2 metres away.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Will my child be expected to wear uniform?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are asking that all children return to school in full uniform and that this is washed and changed daily.</li> </ul>