



20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Reference: Children in Reception Year 1 and Year 6

I hope that you and your families are well and once again I would like to congratulate all the children on their fantastic efforts with their on-line learning. I am writing this letter to set out how the school may start to reopen from 8th June.

The government have asked the school to reopen for certain groups of children. In order of priority these groups are vulnerable children, children of key workers and children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. However when these children return the school will be very different from what your child would expect.

I know that you will have a lot of questions regarding how safe the school environment will be with respect to the virus. The government has acknowledged that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, the government are taking this into account. All schools are required to implement a number of measures set out below:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

The guidelines from the government state that it is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and schools can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups. Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.



In response to this guidance, your child will be taught in a group of no more than 13 children and for EYFS, no more than 11. Each group will be allocated a teacher and a teaching assistant. These groups will always stay with the same adult each day (in the case of part time teaching staff, two teachers will still apply) and have no contact with any other group in the school. Therefore it is important that you understand that your child may not be with their class teacher or in their classroom. For example some children in may be taught in a classroom that other than their own normal classroom by a teacher from another year group. These groups will not change at all over time and it will not be possible to request a change of group for any reason. Some of these groups may also not be in school on a full time basis depending on numbers of children and staff availability. At this stage it is not possible to state exactly who your child will be with, or what their weekly attendance timetable will be. However we will communicate this before they return to school in June.

The school will also be implementing a number of measures set out below to reduce the risk of transmission:

- Carrying out additional stringent cleaning everyday so that when children leave, the spaces and resources that they have used are thoroughly cleaned to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus.
- The resources available to children will be significantly reduced as any resource should not be shared and have to be cleaned at the end of the day. The school will put away items and resources that cannot be easily cleaned.
- Activities will be limited by the need to maintain distancing and by the need to limit resources used. Children will spend more time in Reception and Year 1 sitting at their table. Of course the school will use the outdoor areas for education as much as possible.
- Breaks and lunch times will be staggered to prevent any mixing between groups. Children will be expected to avoid any physical contact during playtimes.
- There will be staggered times to arrive at school and to collect children so that schools can try to safely manage this and ensure there is minimal adult contact. Government guidelines state that parents should not enter the school site and children should be dropped off at the school gate. Parents must not gather at the school gates when arriving or departing.
- Children will be supervised washing their hands regularly throughout the school day, especially when they enter and leave the school building.

I recognise that these changes could be upsetting for your child and all the teaching staff will prioritise your child's wellbeing when they return by providing the right balance of pastoral care with educational activities.



At this stage we need to know whether your child will be attending the school when this provision becomes available. Shortly you will be sent a further short questionnaire to complete with the same three options as before. It is vital that we have a clear idea of how many children are attending so that we can plan the provision for your child. If you remain undecided by 3/6/20 and we do return on 8/6/20 and you then decide you would like to send your child to school, we will require at least 72 hours' notice before your child returns to school. This will give us time to ensure that we have adequate provision in place.

Please note that the school can only reopen when everything is in place and thus I cannot guarantee that this will happen on 8th June. If you decide to keep your child at home at this time, the school respects your decision and there will be no further action taken. I recognise that I cannot ensure that the school is completely safe with regard to the transmission of Covid 19. However the school will follow government guidelines fully to reduce the risk of transmission. All the staff will work tirelessly to help your child come back to school successfully and enjoy their learning.

I understand that you may have questions about your child returning to school. Please contact me by email if you would like more information. I will send out further information before the school reopens in June.

Kind regards

K Heyes

Kathyrn Heyes
Headteacher



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