

Dear mums, dads and carers

13 May 2020

Hello again, as always I hope you are healthy and happy during these uncertain times.

We now have a bit more guidance regarding the proposed phased reopening of schools beginning with the return of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1 June and the “ambition” to have other year groups in before the summer holidays.

My initial plan is outlined below but this is clearly all subject to amendment based upon any number of changing circumstances. A more detailed plan will be sent to you in due course.

Although the details below may all sound pretty severe we are following the government guidelines at all times and our absolute priority is the safety and well-being of all children and members of staff.

In order that we can plan properly I would like Reception, Y1 and Y6 parents and carers to complete a simple survey by replying to this email with a straight yes or no

Will you be sending your child in to school from 1 June?

- YR, Y1 & Y6 to return from 1 June with “ambition” for rest of primary to attend school before summer holiday. This will be a phased return so please do not expect all children in the three year groups to start on 1st June. Possibly one class will return each day in order for us to educate them about new routines and get them used to their classroom spaces.
- Parents do not have to send children if they do not wish and will not be penalised if they do not.
- Children of key workers & those considered “vulnerable” still attend but if they are in YR, Y1 or Y6 they will join a teaching group.
- Children in Y2, 3, 4 & 5 whose parents going back to work are not considered key workers and do not get a school place.
- Children's drop off and collection times will be staggered, but the basic school day will be 8.50am until 3.15pm. A prompt arrival and collection will be expected to ensure minimum contact with others.
- We will not be able to offer Darwin's Den before and after school club as this would involve mixing groups of children.
- Parents/carers will not be allowed on site at any time. Members of staff will receive children from a safe distance at each entry point. Only one adult per household please.
- Ideally children to wear school uniform but as it is also ideal to change / wash clothes daily if this is not possible with uniform then simply clean / different clothes daily.
- Each class will be split into learning “pods” of no more than 15 and very possibly less. These may be based upon a number of factors but we cannot guarantee children will be placed in a cohort with particular friends.
- Each pod will remain in their own learning space at all times. For a number of children this will not be their normal classroom. Your child will not be taught or socialise at school with anyone outside of their small learning pod at any time including at play and dinner times.

- Children will not all be taught by their usual class teacher or teaching assistant. Each pod will be assigned a member or members of staff and these adults will remain with them for the coming weeks.
- Play times and lunch times will be staggered to avoid contact with other children and members of staff. Each pod will be assigned a particular outdoor space to use at a specific time.
- Children will have their own desk or small area and this is where they will remain at all times in the classroom. They will have their own equipment which will stay on their desks and, as far as is practicable, they will not share equipment. All equipment and furniture will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Adults will move around the room to support children but children will be encouraged to stay in their place ~ difficult with our youngest I know!
- Each pod will be assigned one toilet area to use at all times. Movement around the school building will be restricted to ensure children do not come into contact with others in a different pod.
- Children will walk around the outside of the building to access the dining hall and will remain in their pods to eat.
- Children will have a limited curriculum which will focus on well-being, speaking and listening and the basic skills of reading, writing and maths as well as spending as much time as possible outside either doing PE or other activities. Doors and windows will be open as much as possible.

We will continue to provide Home Learning for all other children. I know this challenging for many of you and also that you appreciate all of the time and effort my staff are putting in to preparing and posting lessons and providing feedback Please continue to be appreciative and patient as from 1 June most teachers will need to find time to do this as well as teaching and planning for a group of children all day so contact and interaction will inevitably be reduced!

Health and Hygiene:

Staff and children will wash hands regularly using soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Children and staff will sanitise hands upon arriving and before leaving school.

Doors and windows will be open as much as possible for good ventilation.

We will clean/disinfect toys and surfaces throughout the day. Gates and door handles, phones, tablets etc.

We will reduce toys available to play with to those most easily cleaned. No playdough, sand, water, dressing up, soft furnishings etc.

The latest guidance says that face coverings are not recommended in educational settings, however, as social distancing is quite obviously going to be difficult, staff and children can wear face coverings if they want to and can do so without fuss!

If any children or members of staff display symptoms then all agreed guidelines will be followed.

Best wishes and thank you for your support

Adam Croft