

Friday 15th May 2020

RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for your patience in allowing the school the chance to read the necessary guidance, and begin to plan the phased re-opening schools on 1st June 2020, in line with the government decision announced this week.

Within this letter, I hope to talk to through some initial plans that the school is putting into place in order to make school as safe as possible for any children returning to school. **Any plans made at this time are provisional. We will need to establish the numbers of children wishing to return to school, the amount of adults needed to teach your children and the spaces within the building that can be used. This may mean that children will be unable to return to full time education from 1st June but may have allocated days for attendance within each week or even attend for half days.** It is vital that we set up systems that are as safe as possible for the whole school community. With this in mind, I fully appreciate the apprehension that many parents/ carers have in choosing to send their children to school. What I want to make clear is the choice of whether to send your child back to school the week beginning 1st June is totally your decision. No child nor parent will be penalised if they do not return at this time. However, what I can assure you is that measures will be put into place so you have an accurate picture of what to expect if your child were to return to school.

What measures are the school putting into place?

- Only children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be permitted into school. Key worker children will also be allocated a room if outside these year groups. This will mean the children who are in school can be spread out across all classrooms.
- Class sizes will be reduced – there will be no more than 15 children per class, for as long as possible.
- Children will be allocated one room, with two adults, which will remain as consistent as possible.
- All classrooms will be provided with sanitizing products - for both hand washing and surface cleaning. These can be used at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Cleaners have been instructed to thoroughly clean all rooms per night.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be scheduled so children can keep a 2 metre distance of children outside their class group.
- Start and end times of the day will be staggered to ease the flow into and out of the school as much as possible. This will avoid, as best as possible, parents and children breaking the 2m social distancing at typically busy periods.
- Any child who shows any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

What can the school not guarantee?

- The DfE acknowledges that Primary age children cannot follow social distancing effectively. Staff will try their upmost to keep children 2m apart. However, as I am sure you can imagine this is very difficult, especially with younger children. Therefore, school staff will not be able to guarantee your child will be socially distant with the 15 children they are in their class with.

- The school cannot guarantee enough PPE equipment for all members of staff and children. According to the guidance, PPE equipment is not considered essential in schools at this time. Therefore, whilst the school will have some PPE equipment for use at certain times, this will not be provided for your child as a matter of course.
- The school cannot guarantee a full delivery of curriculum with your child's usual class teacher. All classes will be provided with school adults – who will work alongside each other to deliver lessons that will still enable your child to make progress. However, the adults your child is being taught by will not necessarily be your child's usual class teacher or teaching assistant.
- Any extra-curricular activities that would normally take place in the summer term will still not be taking place. Children who attend school will be participating in normal lessons only.
- If you have a two or more children in different year groups – we will only be taking children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Therefore, you will still have to arrange suitable child care/ learning at home for your children who fall outside of these year groups.

What are the next steps?

As it stands at the moment, full plans and logistics for the 1st June 2020 can only be confirmed once we know how many children will be coming back to school on this date. Therefore, please read the information below in order to help us move forward:

- **Children in Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5:**

You do not need to take any action. Work will continue to be provided remotely for your child via online platforms and the school website. Please continue to utilise these platforms, as much as possible, to support your child with their learning. Should the government provide information on increasing school pupil numbers after the 1st June, I will be in touch with you again separately.

- **Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6:**

If you are not willing to bring your child to school from the 1st June 2020 – **please call the school and leave a message on the child absence line before midday Tuesday 19th May or email the school office.** Please clearly state your child's full name and class, and confirm that your child will not be returning to school this academic year. Please note: If you want to change your mind at any point up until the summer holidays, you will need to communicate this with a member of staff prior to bringing your child into school. I am sure you can appreciate the level of organisation that is involved and it is important that children do not just turn up at school without prior arrangements.

If you do want your child to attend school from 1st June 2020, next week we will be making phone calls to all families in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who have not provided us with a message on the absence line to say their child will not be attending. This phone call will give you a chance to confirm your place with us from 1st June. If your child is returning to school then it is important to note that usual school policies now apply, where possible, including full school uniform. Further information in regards to logistics, timings and adults will be provided once we have an idea of how many children are coming back to school.

As always, I thank you for your support. I want to reiterate that there is no pressure from the school for children to return to school – I fully respect whatever decision families at this time make. However, I hope that this letter does provide some reassurance for you and your families.

Yours sincerely,

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