

Tuesday 7 July 2020



September 2020 – Re-opening Plan

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience, understanding and support throughout the last few months. It hasn't been an easy time and I am so proud of how we have worked together to keep everyone safe and supported.

Secondly, I would like to share with you our plan for the re-opening of the school to all our pupils in September.

The plan is that the eight-week half-term will be split, with pupils returning to school on a part-time basis for the first four weeks, followed by full-time for the remaining four weeks. We believe that all pupils will need a phased reintroduction to ensure the best possible return to school.

Over 140 pupils will have been away from school since March and it would be unfair to expect them to be able to return full-time straight away, the lockdown situation and absence from school has had an impact on all our children, some more so than others. Our aim is to introduce our pupils back to school in a very planned, supported and nurturing way, in small groups so that we can offer additional 1:1 support and reassurance should they need it.

Following feedback from parents during Meet & Greet sessions this week each class teacher will split their pupils into two groups, Group A and Group B.

The Groups may not necessarily be split evenly as some may have more or less pupils depending on individual's needs.

Group A will attend school on a Monday & Tuesday, starting Monday 7 September.
Group B will attend school on a Thursday & Friday, starting Thursday 3 September.

The first 4 Wednesdays 2 – 9 - 16 - 24 September will be staff only days, to ensure we can complete our mandatory training, teachers can receive their PPA time and all staff are on hand to support our enhanced cleaning & hygiene practices.

Your child's class teacher will email you on Friday and let you know which Group your child has been allocated to.

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer a choice of days, this will be led by the needs of pupils.

During the first four weeks all pupils will be accessing two days per week, even those that are currently accessing more than this.

I understand that this may raise issues for some working parents, but unfortunately, we can only offer two days per week for the first four weeks.



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I am hoping that by letting you know now; you will have time to put things in place. I am also happy to write a letter to your employer explaining the situation and requesting they support you and your child through this transition period.

Some questions regard the following have been raised recently:

Does my child have to return, and will I be fined if they don't?

In September we would like all pupils to return, however there may be some that can't as they themselves have significant health needs or those that care for them do. There may also be some pupils or parents who are worried about returning as there is still no vaccine. If you are worried please get in touch with me via email and we can discuss this in more detail. As a school we do not have fines within our Absence Policy, so please don't worry about this.

Will my child be in a Bubble?

Each Class will be a "bubble" on their own for the first four weeks.

What happens if a pupil or staff member develops symptoms or tests positive for C-19?

If a pupil or member of staff is displaying symptoms of the virus, they must not come into school; if they are already in school, they must go home immediately. Staff members must then self-isolate and seek a test ASAP. If the test is negative, they may return to school. If the test is positive, then they and all members of the bubble will need to self-isolate for 14 days – the other staff members of the bubble will need to seek a test ASAP. At present, pupils are not being tested.

Are school lunches being provided?

Hot school lunches will continue to be provided and initially will be eaten within the classroom.

Transport

We are in contact with transport and are discussing our plans with them, once the class teachers have finalised the pupil groupings, we can share this information with transport and co-ordinate a plan for September.

It may be that some parents would prefer to self-transport. We will be sending out a text at the beginning of next week asking you to let us know so that we can then plan staggered drop off and collection times.

INSET Day 23 October

The INSET Day that was planned for Friday 23 October will now not take place and will be included within the four staff only Wednesdays allowing school to remain open to pupils on the last day of half term.





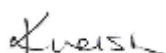
I will keep in touch regularly between now and September providing information and updates where I can.

If you do have any questions or queries, please contact your child's class teacher and they will be happy to help, they can also pass on any queries to me and I can address them in future communications.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and understanding.

Kindest regards,

Keep Safe Everyone 



Mr Kieran Welsh

