

19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carers

### Return To School Update

Since 23<sup>rd</sup> March, in line with the scientific advice, nurseries, schools and colleges have remained open to a priority group of children and young people, children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Schools may now be able to start a phased reopening at the start of June, as announced by the government on 10<sup>th</sup> May when laying out its plans for the easing of the coronavirus lockdown. This will be dependent on key factors outlined by the government, including the rate of infection decreasing, so a phased return to school is a conditional plan which can be amended at any time.

**The initial year groups to potentially return to school from the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June will be Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 children. Each year group will be divided into classes that will attend on alternate week basis (one week on and one week off).** Our reasoning for this is to ensure safe social distancing for staff and children considering the confines of our classrooms, external spaces and staff availability.

We thank parents of children in these year groups for your prompt response to our survey, to help us understand your views relating to your child and family circumstances when considering sending your child back to school. It is clear that we all believe school is the best place for children to learn and to develop positive wellbeing as children have social interactions with their peers and teachers. Risk assessments have been put in place to minimise risks associated with coronavirus, so that sensible measures are implemented to control those risks for children and staff.

A new survey will be emailed to you, as we outline our offer for phasing in the children's return to school, so you can confirm if you will be sending your child back to school. This will be for the period up to the 26<sup>th</sup> June, so it is imperative you reply to the survey and return by **12 noon on 20<sup>th</sup> May**. This will give us time to organise the children into groups. If you decide not to return your child, we understand and respect your wishes and you will not be fined. **We will not be able to include new children once the groups have been finalised this week, until the next phase begins on the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June.** We will reassess the groups once we have more information from the government for the subsequent weeks this term, and a new survey will be sent to you on the week ending 19<sup>th</sup> June.

The following measures to keep staff and children safe have been planned for using advice from the Department of Education.

#### [What factors have we considered in planning phased return](#)

- Space requirements for social distancing within the physical school environment, including numbers and size of classrooms, playground space, lunch hall space to provide meals for small groups
- Staff pupil ratios for maintaining small groups when staffing has been reduced
- Additional cleaning requirements and additional hygiene measures
- PPE measures where social distancing cannot be guaranteed, such as intimate care, 1<sup>st</sup> aid and isolation when children become ill
- Increased signage to remind staff, children and parents of social distancing measures

#### [How we will phase year groups in](#)

- Key workers/identified children will operate on a booking in system as usual

- Reception will attend school between 9am-12.15 pm, with lunch served in class. They will **need to be collected at 12.15 pm** so we have capacity to use the playgrounds for other year groups
- Year 1 & 6 will attend between 9am – 3pm.
- Each class will be divided into small groups or PODS

Year Group	Week 1/6/20	Week 8/6/20	Week 15/6/20	Week 22/6/20
Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 1	Class2
Year 1	Class 3	Class 4	Class 3	Class 4
Year 6	Class 13	Class 14	Class 13	Class 14

#### [How we will keep your child safe](#)

- Small groups (PODS) of children no more than 15 with consistent members of staff
- Children spaced as appropriate for social distancing in class and other learning environments
- Children to have own stationery in pouches to avoid sharing
- Any shared resources will be sanitised
- No groups will be able to mix with others
- Drop off and collection from different entrances/exits; adults not to gather or have conversations but to move on from school
- Play and lunch will be arranged around individual groups
- Designated toilets for each group of children
- Playgrounds will be split so groups are separated
- PODS will have access to own equipment which will be sanitised when used
- Communication to school to take place by phone or email
- Equipment, including playground, selected for children to work with will be sanitised
- Contractors and suppliers to follow school guidance
- Children and parents/carers to be encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle
- Ventilation and limit use of handling doors where possible (in line with fire safety and safeguarding)
- PPE used by staff in situations where social distancing cannot be guaranteed

#### [How do we enforce our everyday practice](#)

- Sufficient handwashing facilities for regular cleaning

- Sanitisers around entrances and classrooms
- Children encouraged not to touch mouth, eyes and nose
- Use of tissues and how to sneeze or cough
- Use of bins for used tissues and emptied regularly

#### What happens when a child or staff becomes ill

- If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature (or other related symptoms of Coronavirus) they will be isolated and parents will be phoned for child to be sent home
- Staff supervising a child will wear PPE whilst awaiting collection of child
- The school will seek guidance immediately from public health
- Advice may be given to follow the COVID-19 guidance and testing arrangements (use 111 online coronavirus service if the child is 5 or over but call 111 if under 5)
- Child will need to self-isolate for 7 days and household members for 14 days, so you the child may need alternative arrangements to be brought into school. See [government guidance](#)
- If any member in a POD displays symptoms coronavirus they will have access to a test.

Once again, many thanks for completing the initial survey expressing your thoughts on your child returning to school if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We hope this gives you a clearer understanding of the measures the school has taken to assess and to keep everyone safe in order to minimise risks. We now ask parents to confirm by **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May by 12 pm**, having considered our plan for targeted children returning to school, if you want your child to return. **We will not be able to include new children once the groups have been finalised this week, until the next phase begins the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June.**

We will communicate further information for those children returning to school and which weeks they will be able to attend, as well as organisational matters.

Regards



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Co-Headteacher



Robert Coyle  
Co-Headteacher