



26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## BRIEF UPDATE ON POTENTIAL PARTIAL RE – OPENING OF SCHOOL FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for responding to our survey so that I can gain an idea of the numbers of children we can expect to return from the 8<sup>th</sup> June. I will be sending the survey again at the end of the week to finalise these numbers in the first instance. You will only need to complete the survey this time if you have changed your mind or you answered that you would decide closer to the time on the last survey.

Once the starting numbers are finalised, I will be in a better position to begin getting the finer details out to you all during the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June. These details will include such things as which teacher will be leading your child's group, the start and end time your child's group has been allocated, which classroom they will be in and which entrances to use.

During the holidays, we will also be sending some information out to you on how you can best support your child to prepare for their return. We will also be uploading some videos to help you with this. For example, we'll be reading stories about managing worries, filming what the classroom looks like and explaining how things might be a little different, right down to setting you some little tasks to do with them before coming back, which will help that transition back into school run as smoothly as possible. However, we know - for some - it might take a while to feel confident again to leave you and we will be sending hints and tips to help with that too. We want to do whatever we can to help you make sure they are as ready as they can be for the return.

So that you can be prepared for what the initial stages of the return look like, I wanted to share that this will be phased. It's important that with so many changes to routines and deviation from the 'norm', that we spend time making sure things work and can put our efforts into supporting adults and children alike with getting to grips with the changes. Therefore the phased return is likely to be as follows:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Staff training day  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Reception return date  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June - Year 1 return date  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Nursery return date  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 return date

The children in the 'Key Worker' group will continue to attend as normal. The children in the returning year groups who are part of this group will join their year groups at the point they return. Only this group will have the extended school day that they are currently afforded.

Finally, in answer to some of your initial questions:





# DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Principal : Kathryn Thornburn (BSc Hons, NPQH)  
Dowson Primary Academy 0161 366 0177



- ✓ There have been **no confirmed cases** of Covid-19 in school during the 9 weeks we have been closed to most pupils.
- ✓ 3 members of staff isolated due to symptoms at the very beginning of the closures, before testing was available and when the transmission rate was high. This is out of a total of 35 staff - 20 teaching staff and 15 in other roles in school - who have been in school on rotas throughout the 9 weeks.
- ✓ 3 families out of 25 who have regularly used the provision have isolated at some point during the 9 weeks because someone in their household had symptoms.
- ✓ All children, including the Key Worker group, will be expected to wear school uniform on 8<sup>th</sup> June (we will work with families where children have outgrown items to find a reasonable solution).
- ✓ We will endeavour to group children with some of their friends.
- ✓ We currently have enough teaching staff to cover 100% of the returning year groups so it is highly unlikely that any year groups will be asked not to return. However, the order of priority going forwards should staffing become an issue is, as stated in the government guidance, Key Worker children followed by the youngest children.
- ✓ If anyone, who initially says no to their child returning to school, changes their mind at a later date, you must inform school with at least a week's notice. Children will only start at the beginning of each new school week.
- ✓ From 8<sup>th</sup> June children will be able to bring a packed lunch or have a hot school meal offer again. We will assume the options that were in place before school closures will be the same unless you notify school before we return. Therefore, children eligible for a free school meal, including Universal Infant Free School Meals for children in Reception to Year 2, who usually take up this meal and the children who usually pay for one will all be on the school dinner register. If your child brought a packed lunch before school closures, we will expect them to bring one from this date unless you tell us you would like to change this.

I hope this information is helpful. I will be in touch again soon.

Warmest regards

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn  
Principal.

