



Dear parents/carers

Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe since we closed on 20th March. We cannot wait to start this journey back to 'normality' and are keen that despite any necessary changes, we will soon be back to the Elliston community that we all know and love.

As you will be aware, Elliston will be opening full time on Monday 8th June for the following priority year groups - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as identified by the government. We will continue to offer a childcare service to children of Key Workers in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5.

We have spoken to all families this applies to and we respect decisions made by you in terms of sending children back or keeping them at home. In the current climate, there will be no fine for non-attendance. However, if your child starts back on Monday 8th, they will be expected to be in school everyday.

We know that many parents may feel uneasy about schools re-opening. I would like to reiterate what I said in my last letter; if I did not think it was safe, I would not open. I care for your children and families and I would never expose them to avoidable risks. We have followed all government guidelines when putting safety measures into place, which have been checked and approved by the Trust Health and Safety officer.

Movement to/from and around school

- Children will arrive at staggered start times – this allows us to maintain social-distancing. Please ensure that you arrive promptly at your designated time, drop your child off and leave the school site immediately. The gates into and out of school will be locked promptly and no child will be admitted through the school office unless they are in the Key Worker group – if you do not arrive on time, your child will miss their place in school that day.
- We ask that, where possible, one adult only will drop off/collect children and avoid bringing other children who are not attending Elliston with them; this will help support us in maintaining social-distancing and keeping the number of people on our site to a minimum. We know that there may be times you have to bring siblings with you but we ask they remain strictly under your care and are not allowed to touch school property . **Information regarding groups, rooms and staggered start/end times will be shared with you via separate letters later this week.**
- We will be using various entry and exit points. FS1 will use their usual entrance. FS2 will be placed in the hall and will use the hall door, Y6 will use the small gate on Elliston Street. The Key Worker group will continue to use the main reception. All areas will be clearly marked and staff will be available to support as needed .
- Parents/carers are not allowed into the school building – please drop your child off promptly at the doors and immediately leave the site. We recognise this may be difficult for you and the children as we have all been through a very strange time but we believe we have everything in place to ensure we all settle back into school happily.
- The office is **not** open – if you need to speak to a member of staff, please telephone the office. If necessary, class teachers will telephone you back at their earliest convenience.
- Movement around school will be restricted to a minimum.

Safeguarding continues to be our first priority and all arrangements ensure that the school building is safe and secure at all times.

Classrooms

- We want to feel like we are Elliston again and therefore, we are asking that children come to school in school uniform – this includes Key Worker children. We recognise that they may have grown out of some clothing and providing uniform may be difficult but as much as possible, we would like this to be followed.
- Children have been organised into smaller groups, following government guidance - children will stay in these groups at all times. Each group has been allocated a room as their class group. Children will go to the toilet, have access to the outside and have their lunch as a group. The adults in their group will stay with them throughout and will not mix. Children will be allowed to go to the toilet, outside of their allocated time, but they will always be accompanied by an adult.
- No equipment or toys are to be brought into school– these pose a health risk to other children and staff.
- Equipment in school will not be shared. The younger children will play with toys together but strict hand washing rules will apply.
- Children will take their coats and packed lunches into their classroom. Children will place their coats on the back of their chair and packed lunches will be stored just outside the room

- Water bottles can be brought into school and left until the end of term – these will be washed in an industrial cleaner at the end of everyday by the adults, all bottles must be named with a permanent marker. Alternatively, bottled water may be brought in plastic bottles and binned at the end of the day.
- If your child has access to a free-school meal, they will be provided with a 'grab bag' at lunch time; If your child does not receive free-school meals, they can bring in a packed lunch with them, or you can purchase a 'grab bag' via Parent Pay. All children will have the opportunity to choose their sandwich filling at the beginning of the week.
- All children will eat their lunch in their room and then have access to the outside; if the weather allows, children will be able to eat their lunch outside. This allows us to keep social distancing in place.
- Our aim is to ensure that your child/children come into contact with as few staff as possible; children will be taught by the same members of staff and supervised by these at lunch and play too.
- Children will not receive home reading books or paper-based homework; we are trying to avoid cross-contamination. We are encouraging children to read every day in school and have access to a class story every day.
- Physical activity will remain part of your curriculum but we will not be asking children to change into PE clothes for this.

Additional safety measures

- If you or your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, as identified by the Government, **do not attempt to come to school**. Ring the school office and we will be able to advise you of testing processes. Isolation guidance will apply for 14 days unless a negative test result is secured.
- Any child taken ill with COVID-19 symptoms in school will go to an isolation room and you will need to collect him/her plus siblings immediately. We will need up to date contact details for all parents/carers.
- Any First Aid issues that are not COVID-19 related will be treated in the same way and communicated to you as we normally do
- FOR ANY FIRST AID, staff will wear PPE to protect themselves and the children. You can let the children know this; to ensure this is not a worry for them. PPE will be apron, gloves and mask. The same will apply for any member of staff helping a child who has had a toilet accident at school.
- We continue to expect outstanding behaviour from all children; incidents of inappropriate behaviour that puts staff and other children at risk will not be tolerated. Our behaviour policy has been adapted to reflect the current situation in terms of government guidance. A copy of this is available on the school website.

Key Worker Children – Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5:

From Monday 8th June, arrangements for Key Worker children remain largely the same for all children. Children in Nursery, Reception Y1 and Y6 are expected to be in full time and will now be based in their classroom. Children in Y2 and Y5 will join their normal class also as we believe this is most appropriate for them in terms of learning. Children in Y3 and Y4 will be in small groups in the Y3/4 area of school.

Free-School Meal Vouchers:

From Monday 8th June, these vouchers will **only be available** for children who are in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5. Children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 have been offered a place in school and can access their free-school meal entitlement in school.

Home learning

From Monday 8th June, home learning will continue in the same way as it has since school closed for children who are in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5.

Children in Nursery Reception, Y1 and 6 who have chosen not to come to school will have access to some home learning but teachers will not be following this up in the manner they have been doing.

What you can do to help

- Continue to remind your children about stringent hand washing
- Continue to remind your children about good hygiene with sneezing and coughing
- Ensure long hair is tied up
- Ensure you follow the guidance for arriving and leaving school yourselves
- Inform us immediately of any COVID symptoms in the household
- Maintain social distancing in your home lives in line with government guidance

Note

If you have any concerns or questions about the above, please contact me at school. I would appreciate that any are shared with me personally and not shared on social media. We need to maintain a happy place, confident in safety and security measures for our children. I am absolutely confident we have the balance between safety and ensuring school is as normal as possible for children right. We want your children to be happy back in school and enjoying their learning.