



Dear Parent

I hope you and your family are all well. As promised in my newsletter on Monday, I am writing to give you further information about the Government's guidance in relation to the proposed partial reopening of schools from June 1<sup>st</sup>. At this stage, the reopening is conditional on the infection rate continuing to decrease and will only be confirmed by the Government on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May.

The Government guidance is being added to on a regular basis, with more being published last night. However, in all guidance it is emphasised that to minimise the risk of transmission of infection, every school must make individual arrangements for the staggering of the reopening based on their risk assessment. Therefore, this week myself, senior leaders, staff and governors have begun to put plans in place for a partial reopening giving consideration to our school accommodation and layout including size of classrooms, playgrounds, toilet facilities and the number of key worker children in school already. Please be assured that our main priority during this planning is the safety of your children, your families and our staff.

The guidance emphasises that because social distancing is hard to maintain with younger children, schools need to put 4 main measures in place to minimise the transmission of infection:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contact and mixing

To meet these measures the guidance states that the following procedures should take place:

- Children should be put into 'groups' of no more than 15 - *so they will not be with all of their classmates and not all children will be in their own classroom or with their own teacher*
- Each 'group' should have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes so they are not able to come into contact or mix with children from any other 'group' as this would risk cross-contamination.
- Lunches should be served in the classroom so children can remain in the same place.
- The start and end of the day should be staggered for each group of children to minimise risk of transmission of infection between families.
- Only one adult may accompany a child to school and no parents may come into the school building.
- Tables should be separated as much as possible and the children encouraged to follow social distancing. However, the guidance recognises that young children will find it difficult to maintain this.
- Resources including play equipment should not be shared by children.
- Soft furnishings, soft toys and play equipment which cannot easily be cleaned should be removed from classrooms.
- Additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces should take place eg handles, doors, desks, books
- Windows and doors should be propped open to increase ventilation within the classroom
- Corridors should be divided so that children are not coming into contact with each other – *our corridors are only 1m wide so this isn't possible, but on fine days we will try and operate a one way system using the playground as well as the corridor to get to and from the Infant toilets*
- Toilets shouldn't be overcrowded - *our infant toilets are small so children can only be allowed in one at a time*
- PPE should not be worn by staff unless they are dealing with a poorly child.

As you can appreciate, the `school` the children come back to will be very different from the school they left. It will take time to get them into the routine expected and therefore admitting children on a staggered and possibly part-time basis seems the only viable option. The children will not be following their usual curriculum but instead completing work similar to that included in the home learning packs.

Whilst we will put in place all the procedures and do all we can to minimise the risk of transmission, clearly we cannot guarantee that your child will not come into contact with COVID 19 due to the widening of the social boundaries from home isolation to school setting.

The Government has set the following procedures for suspected cases:

- If a child or staff member develops COVID 19 symptoms, they should go home and self isolate for 7 days and the remainder of the family for 14 days.
- The Government strongly recommends that a child or staff member, who is demonstrating symptoms, is tested for COVID 19.
- If this test is negative they can return to school – if it is positive the other children and staff in that group must also go home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- Frequent and thorough handwashing should take place and children should be taught good hygiene practices including ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’.

Given all of the above, it must be your decision as a parent, whether you wish to send your child into school if you have the opportunity to do so. The Government guidance also states that no parents will be penalised if they choose not to send their child to school.

To help us with the final stages of our planning, I would be grateful if our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents could complete a survey asking for your views and to confirm whether you will be sending your child to school or not.

Reception <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KLRVSNV>

Year 1 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VDKPVF3>

Year 6 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VYCYHG2>

Please note that this isn't a final decision – it is simply an indication to enable to us to make more detailed plans. I'd be grateful if these surveys could be completed before the end of the weekend so that we are able to collate responses and plan further this coming Monday as we are working to a tight timescale.

We are aware that the last two months have been difficult for many of our families but throughout this time, as a staff, we have endeavoured to provide as much reassurance and help to our families as possible and prioritised the safety and welfare of all our school community. I can assure you that we will continue to do so during the coming weeks and that every decision taken will be what we feel is in the best interest of keeping our children, family and staff safe.

As ever we are here to support you, please get in touch at any time via by messenger on our facebook page or [head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk).

I hope you all have a relaxing weekend and enjoy a break from the home learning.

With very best wishes

Rhiannon Jones

Headteacher

