



# Maryport Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs J Ormond

*'Learn, achieve, shine'*

Dear Parents,

Following on from my previous letter, I am now in a position to outline our school's plan for a phased reopening. There has been a robust risk assessment undertaken as to how the risk of Covid-19 may be mitigated within the school environment for both pupils and staff. It is important to note that **this plan is conditional and is dependent upon government policy changes in the coming weeks.**

I would like to emphasise again that the safety of children, families and staff remains our paramount concern and our plans to prepare for a phased return are based upon our capacity to implement the protective measures outlined by the Government for schools (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>). We recognise that the decision whether or not you send your child back to school as part of the phased return is an extremely difficult one. I would like to stress that there is no expectation that parents should choose to send their children to school as part of this phased return should they not wish to. You should give careful consideration before making a decision. During this period attendance at school will not be monitored in the usual way. **Parents will not face consequences for non-attendance and schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.** If you chose not to send your child back to school before September, home learning will continue to be provided (pupils in school will be doing the same tasks but with an added emphasis on outdoor learning and well-being).

You will appreciate that our final offer has been determined following a robust risk assessment completed by school leaders and governors and that this is subject to change as further guidance is provided by the DFE, Local Authority and unions. As I mentioned when I wrote to you earlier, I feel that an understanding of "what school might look like" will be invaluable when coming to your decision.

## Implications for school organisation as part of a phased return

- Pupils will work in groups of no more than 15 as recommended. Group sizes will be determined by taking into account the needs of the children and the size of the room in which they will work. Wherever possible children will consistently be taught by the same staff member in order to reduce 'contact points'. This may mean that your child will not be placed with their current teacher or based in their current classroom.
- Children of critical workers who will be the first to return, will form a group, or 'bubble' together. As and when their year groups return, they will remain in their initial 'bubbles' and not move to a new one.
- Groups of children (and adults) must be kept separate from each other at all times including in lessons, breaks and mealtimes wherever possible.



- In order to reduce ‘contact points’ the school timetable will be staggered including: at the beginning and end of the school day, break times and meal times.
- Classrooms will be redesigned in order to promote safe practice. With older children this will mean an allocated table and the removal of additional furniture from classrooms. We recognise that younger children cannot be expected to remain at a desk for lengthy periods of time and so this may be managed by reducing group sizes further.
- Reduction in the number and nature of resources – particularly play-based resources for younger children – to enable regular cleaning; and the removal of other furniture and resources from classrooms.
- Whilst most lessons will follow exactly the same format as per our daily home learning lessons, the school will place an emphasis on well-being and mental health activities.
- All previously planned gatherings (Leavers’ Assembly, Sports Days, trips/visits) will not take place
- As part of our risk assessment, it is possible that staff might follow the advice of their professional bodies and choose to wear PPE in order to manage the risk of transmissions – particularly when administering first aid or supporting intimate care
- Stringent additional handwashing and cleaning will need to take place throughout the day to help manage the risk of infection. All children will be expected to comply without exception
- There will be no breakfast or after school clubs and we will not be running our baby and toddler group or Little Acorns 2 year old provision.
- We will not be offering Nursery provision before September (except for the critical worker offer)
- We ask that all children are brought to school and collected by an adult (at allocated time slots) to reduce the risk of social gatherings (meeting up with friends) on the way to/from school
- Children and staff who present with COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated prior to being sent home. All children (over 5) and staff will be eligible for a test for COVID-19 if displaying symptoms.

Our re-opening plan has a number of stages which lead towards the governments ‘ambition’ to have all primary year groups back before the summer holidays. It is however impossible to put a definite timeframe on the later stages as this will entirely depend upon numbers of pupils and staffing levels and it **may** be that for some year groups September will be their earliest return date.

### Phase 1 Week beginning 1/6/20

School will remain closed to children until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June to allow for staff training in the new H&S policies, preparation of classrooms and individual resources and ‘dry-runs’ of all procedures.

School will then open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> only for the children of critical workers (as defined by the Government) and for those pupils who have an EHCP or who receive additional support from other agencies eg Social Care or Family Action. Information regarding the eligibility for phase 1 can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

During phase 1 all children will need to be ‘booked in’ in order that we can determine staffing levels required.



### Phase 1 Week beginning 8/6/20

School will be open Monday to Thursday for the children outlined above only. School will be closed on Fridays hereafter in order that a weekly deep clean can be carried out, procedures can be reviewed and staff can receive their statutory PPA allocations.

Phase 2 – date to be determined following review of procedures and numbers

School will be open Monday to Thursday for the phase 1 children and **Year 6**

Phase 3 - date to be determined following review of procedures and numbers

School will be open Monday to Thursday for phase 1 children, Year 6 and **Year 1**

Phase 4 - date to be determined following review of procedures and numbers

School will be open Monday to Thursday for phase 1 children, Year 6, Year 1 and **Reception**

Phase 5 - date to be determined following review of procedures and numbers

School will be open Monday to Thursday for phase 1 children, Year 6, Year 1, Reception and **Years 2 and 5**

Phase 6 - date to be determined following review of procedures and numbers

School will be open Monday to Thursday for **all year groups**

We recognise the difficult decision placed on all of our families. We hope that you understand that the information provided in this letter is not aimed at causing any additional fear, anxiety or inconvenience.

***It should be remembered that risk cannot be entirely removed and so it is for parents to come their own decision based upon the information that we have provided.***

If you are a classed as a critical worker and wish your child to return to school on 4/6/20, please email me at [head@maryport.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@maryport.cumbria.sch.uk) to receive the link to the booking form. Prior to this **PLEASE CHECK THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. For children who fall into the 'vulnerable' category, we will contact you directly next week to discuss your plans. Once we have dates for the subsequent phases, further information will be sent out to the applicable year groups.

Finally, we have reached half term and as such there will be no home learning posted this week. Thank you so much for all the kind messages of support, as always we appreciate everything you are doing as parents in these very difficult and uncertain times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Joanne Ormond

