

We appreciate and understand that some parents may find the new arrangements difficult, but please do remember that every decision we are making is in an effort to get as many children as possible back into school within the guidelines set out by the DFE and guidance and risk assessments set out by the Local Authority. Please remember that each school is also unique in terms of available space and staffing.

As an infant school we face the additional challenge of being asked to facilitate the return of two thirds of our children whilst being asked to run at less than 50% capacity.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Why are Reception children prioritised before Year One?**

As government guidance states: "Each setting's circumstances will be slightly different. Any setting that cannot achieve these small groups at any point should discuss options with their local authority or trust. This might be because there are not enough classrooms or spaces available in the setting or because they do not have enough available teachers or staff to supervise the groups. Solutions might involve children attending a nearby school. If necessary, settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:

- early years settings - 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups
- infant schools - nursery (where applicable) and reception
- primary schools - nursery (where applicable), reception and year 1

We will revisit this advice when the science indicates it is safe to invite more children back to schools and colleges."

- **Why can't there be a rota so more children can be taught but have less time in school?**

The DFE guidance and Derbyshire County Council have stated that rotas are not to be used and children who attend should attend full time.

'For the period from 1st June, when only Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be attending school, alongside vulnerable and the children of critical workers, we are asking primary schools not to plan on the basis of daily or weekly rotas as they do not provide the consistency of education and care for the youngest children, who also require more support with remote education. Rotas are also likely to require more regular and burdensome cleaning between groups, may limit staffing options as staff will also need to be on the same rota, and are more challenging to combine in a low-risk way with full-time provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers'.

- **Why can't all children start at the same time instead of some children being phased throughout June?**

We are staggering the different phases to ensure that we can monitor and adapt the control measures which have been put in place with regards to our risk assessments.

- **Could the juniors help out with any spare rooms/ teachers?**

The Junior School are/will be using their classrooms and staff to teach key worker children, vulnerable children and Year 6 children.

- **Why are there more key workers all of a sudden?**

The lists of key workers as set out by the government are evolving all the time. As more key workers are returning to work full time their childcare needs have altered.

- **How many classes are there across school and how many children are in each class?**

There are 7 classes within school which will be opened for between 10 - 13 children following the 2m social distancing guidelines.

- **How will places be decided?**

Obviously, vulnerable children and keyworker children will take priority. Then Reception children followed by Year One children. If all places are taken and you require a place, we can contact the local authority who will help to find a place at another school.

- **How many staff are in school supporting children? Could teachers provide contact time virtually for those that remain at home?**

All members of staff, other than those who are shielding, have returned to school to teach these smaller groups.

Children in school and at home will be following the same planned activities from Class Dojo so that there is consistency. We are looking at gathering feedback from parents regarding the delivery of activities via Dojo and other forms of contact.

- **When will we hear about how my child was getting on as parents evening was cancelled?**

All teachers have been writing an annual report which will be sent out later this term.

- **What transition will take place for the Year 2 children?**

We have been in discussions with the Junior School regarding transition and we are formulating a plan about what we can do to support our Year 2 children. We will update you once more guidance and information is available.

We appreciate your continued support during these challenging times and we thank you all in advance for your support in implementing these control measures.