Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been busy working in school to get a sense of what ‘normal’ will look like when we welcome back some of our pupils on the 8th June. The Government has set out a partial reopening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. We will continue to provide childcare for Key Worker and Vulnerable children. The confirmation to reopen schools will be made by the Government, if their five tests are met and we move to Phase 2 of the plan. Our plans take in to account the guidance set out by the Department of Education which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I feel it is important to make it clear at this stage school will not look or be like the Middlethorpe the children know and love. There will however be many things the same- the children, the staff, our ethos and values to mention a few. In order to minimise the risk to all our children and staff, changes have had to be made to the physical environment, timetables and lessons. We will as always endeavour to make the children feel as supported and cared as possible as we all get used to this new normal.

**Below are the plans for how school will operate from 8th June:**

* Children will be in a group of no more than 15 children
* At least one adult will be assigned to each group of children (this may not be their usual teacher although all groups will be with a familiar adult)
* Children will be expected to wear their uniform if it still fits them and that it is clean daily. We appreciate that some children may have grown out of parts of their uniform and in that case we ask that clothes are practical and clean daily.
* Children will not be allowed to bring anything with them except a clean full water bottle, a packed lunch (if needed) and a coat. All belongings will be kept at their desk for the duration of the day.
* If First Aid needs to be administered or if a child needs to be changed because of a toileting accident staff will wear PPE (mask, apron and gloves). We may ask you to come to school to collect your child if needed.

**Drop off and pick up**

* Children will be given a specific time to arrive in the morning and be picked up at the end of the day. This is to minimise the number of people on site at any one time. We ask you to stick to the time given.
* Only one adult should drop off and pick up. You should only bring a sibling if you have no alternative option. Any siblings on site must be kept next to the adult at all times adhering to social distancing.
* There will be a one way system in place when entering the grounds. This will be entering through Key Stage 1 and exiting via Key Stage 2. When on site, we ask that you adhere to social distancing at all times.
* Your child will have an allocated drop off point. We ask that you do not approach the classroom doors for any reason.
* Your child must be dropped off and you must then leave the site promptly. Please do not hang around the gates or on the playground for any reason.
* At the end of the day collection times will be allocated. When waiting for your child please adhere to social distancing at all times.
* Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building unless by prior appointment. Contact will continue via phone, email and Class Dojo.

**Break times and lunchtimes**

* The children will eat their lunch in the classrooms at their desks
* Lunchtimes and playtimes will be staggered and groups of 15 will not be allowed to mix
* Lunch boxes will be kept at their desks for the duration of the day
* School meals offered will only be a Grab Bag
* Each group will be allocated a space to play at playtime and lunchtime. They must remain in their group space and adhere to social distancing.

**In the Classroom**

* The children will remain in their allocated classroom for the duration of the day. They will not be allowed to mix with any other groups
* Each group will have an allocated toilet to use which will be cleaned at lunchtime.
* Children will sit at individual tables spaced apart as much as possible all facing the same direction
* All unnecessary furniture, equipment and soft toys have been removed from the classrooms
* Children will work at their tables
* Children will have their own personal equipment given to them
* Surfaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day
* Children will be supervised washing their hands throughout the day

**Nursery and Reception**

The Department of Education Guidance states “early years and primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.” In Nursery and Reception the following measures will be in place:

* Children may be directed to particular activities more than usual
* A limited number of children will be allowed to play in each area
* Toys and surfaces will be regularly cleaned
* Toys that cannot be cleaned easily have been removed from the setting
* Children will be expected to wash their hands between activities
* Good hygiene practices will be enforced- catch it, bin it, kill it
* Children will be in 2 groups and the groups will not be allowed to mix with children from the other group

**Symptoms**

For the safety of all pupils and staff anybody who is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 will be isolated in the Jigsaw Room and parents called immediately for the child to be collected. They will be advised to self-isolate for seven days. If the child tests negative for Covid-19, they can return to school. If the child tests positive for Covid-19, the rest of their group within school will be sent home and advised to isolate for 14 days.

All these precautions have been put in to place to minimise the risk of the virus spreading and to keep the children and staff as safe as possible. We will create and upload photographs of the new classroom layouts and changes made to the school environment for you to share with your child. We hope this will help to prepare them for their return to school.

More details will be sent out next week regarding the group allocations, drop off and pick up times.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding,

Mrs Simpson