

**School Update re: Phased re-opening**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you to set out the arrangements we have made to open our school from 9th June.

**Thank you.**

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close.

I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare. I am pleased to let you know that, further to the government’s announcement (subject to scientific advice), we are working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back more children.

**Which children can attend?**

As you may be aware, we have remained open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children and have been operating with smaller group sizes, and additional hygiene and infection control measures. We will remain open for them.

From the week beginning 8th June, we may be able to welcome back certain children, **if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time**. We will begin with Reception children, followed by Year 1 the following week from June 15th. Once we have settled these children back in, we may then open to Year 6 from June 22nd, depending on the numbers of children in school.

Key worker children – these children will take priority for places in school. If this number increases, the amount of ‘bubble’ group places for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will decrease.

Some categories of **children with specific serious health conditions should not attend** or if they live with someone with a serious health condition. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

**Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)**

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

* Asking that **anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms**, or **who lives with someone who does**, **not** to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
* Keeping our children in small groups called ‘Bubbles’ with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other Bubbles around the setting.
* Washing our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to **wash their hands**, making sure they wash them thoroughly for **at least 20 seconds** using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
* Ensuring our children understand **good respiratory hygiene** by promoting the **‘catch it, bin it, kill it’** approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
* Implementing an **enhanced cleaning schedule**, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
* Asking parents and carers to **physically distance from each other and from staff**, when dropping off and collecting their children, and to limit drop off and collection to **one** parent or carer per household.
* Asking children **not to bring toys or other items from home to school** – no bags, reading books etc.

**COVID-19 Testing**

**Are you well?** That is the first, and most important, question that parents must ask themselves and their children each day. If anyone in the household has any possible symptoms of Covid-19 then your child must stay away from school. We must also be notified.

This is the start of an isolation protocol which must be followed. If your child shows any symptoms in school, then they will be isolated and they must be collected immediately. Any other siblings in school will also be sent home at this time. Once again this starts the mandatory isolation period for the household. This only ends if a test on the person with symptoms comes back negative.

Families will be responsible for ensuring that tests take place, but school may be able to help get a test organised for you. Should a child or staff member test positive then a Public Health team will decide on the action that the school must take.

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/)

The aim is that a positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and **notify us immediately of a positive test**.

**Conclusion**

I hope that this letter and the attached documents will give you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from week beginning 8th June. We are looking forward to welcoming your child[ren] back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Kind regards,

Mrs N Galloway

Headteacher