



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

18.06.20

Wider reopening of school - important information

Dear parents/ carers

I am including in the newsletter tonight, information that I have already shared with you with one or two minor alterations to that previously supplied e.g. some groups are in different rooms to the ones originally planned. It contains the information that you will need for our wider reopening from Monday 22 June in one place.

How will children be organised?

The Government accepts that early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. Therefore, they have asked schools to work through this hierarchy of measures:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

The idea behind the final bullet point is that we create small 'bubbles' of no more than 15 children and an adult, which remain as separate as possible from each other during the day.

Therefore, each of our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and the children of critical workers have been divided into two groups of no more than 15 children. The adult that the child has supervising them, will in many cases not be their usual class teacher.

The **Nursery** children are based in the current Nursery and Reception classrooms. From there they will have access to the infant playground. (see attached site plan).

The **Reception** children are based in the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms where they will have access the grassy area outside of those classrooms.

The **Year 1** children are based in the Year 3 and Year 4 classroom and will access the KS2 playground and possibly sections of the field.

The children of **critical workers** will be based in the Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms and are able to use sections of the field.

It goes without saying, that this will not be school as the children know it. The classrooms look different. Staff have been in school rearranging desks and furniture to allow for the best possible social distancing. They have removed soft furnishings and items from surfaces to allow for good, deep cleaning. The cleaning staff have been into every nook and cranny to make the school as spotless as possible for the arrival of the children. I thank all of our staff for their great efforts.

What will children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 be learning in school?

The priorities for the children at this time will be:

- resocialisation into new style school routines
- speaking and listening
- regaining momentum in particular with reading, writing and maths where appropriate – we will do our best to make learning as normal as possible within the limitations faced.
- children will be encouraged to exert themselves physically, e.g. playing supervised non-touch running games within their group.
- and to minimise likelihood of infection, where possible and practicable much of the learning will take place outside.

The activities planned for the children in Nursery and Reception and the resources used, will be very different to what the children are accustomed. For example, items such as play dough cannot be shared, resources for activities such as painting, sticking, cutting, small world play, indoor and outdoor construction activities will be washed before and after use and children will also be needed to refrain from sharing these.

In Year 1, it is going to be very difficult to use or share books when book covers and each page will need to be wiped down after every use but they will however, be using their exercise books. Their teachers will not be collecting them in or marking them. There may be opportunities where children can self-mark.

What about the children of critical workers?

The provision for the children of critical workers is childcare and not teaching and learning. There might be an opportunity for them to carry out some of their home learning depending upon the resources we have available.

What about children not in school?

We will have a number of teachers who will not be teaching face to face in school. These members of staff can support home learning but it is unlikely that we will be able to maintain the same levels that children have experienced over recent weeks and months, but we still hope to ensure the best standard of provision that is within our means.

Attendance Dates

Group	Start and end date for summer term attendance
Critical worker/ vulnerable children	22 June - 17 July
Nursery	23 June - 17 July
Reception	24 June – 17 July
Year 1	22 June - 10 July
Year 6	13 July – 17 July

Staggered start

We will have a staggered start over three days so that all eligible groups will be in school by Wednesday. We want to proceed with caution and learn lessons as we take this approach.

Monday 22 June	Critical Worker / Vulnerable Children and Year 1 start
Tuesday 23 June	As above plus Nursery class
Wednesday 24 June	As above plus Reception Class

Bubble Details: Leader, Pick-Up/ Drop-off times, Entrance/ Exit

These are the planned group arrangements:

Who?/ Where?/ What?/ When?	Childcare A	Childcare B	Nursery A	Nursery B	Reception A	Reception B	Year 1 A	Year 1 B
Bubble Leader	Mrs Kay	Mrs Ash	Mrs Owsianska (Mon) Mrs Cassidy (Tues-Frid)	Mrs Bowler	Mrs Singleton	Mrs Swarbrick	Mr Hodge	Miss Hesketh
Wristband colour	Blue	Green	Red	Yellow	Blue	Green	Red	Yellow
Entrance/ exit Gate	Walgarth Drive	Walgarth Drive	Warton Place	Warton Place	Warton Place	Warton Place	Walgarth Drive	Walgarth Drive
Classroom/ Door	Year 6	Year 5	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Drop-off	0900	0900	0900	0900	0845	0845	0845	0845
Mon-Thurs Pick-Up	1515	1515	1515	1515	1500	1500	1500	1500
Friday pick-up	1320	1320	1320	1320	1305	1305	1305	1305

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, not all of the groups will be able to have their regular teacher. This is because, in order to maintain bubbles, we will have to split classes into two. It is also because some of our teaching staff fall into the 'clinically vulnerable' category and so naturally we are following local authority HR advice on their safe deployment.

Teachers have organised children into groupings, which will suit their learning and social/ emotional needs best, as they judge them. The childcare children have been organised into two age groups: younger and older.

We will be providing children with coloured wristbands to help staff and pupils identify correct groupings. These are intended to stay in school and will be wiped down each day.

Please note. To minimise adult to adult contact:

- only one parent is allowed on site to bring in or collect child/ren
- if a parent has children at two different pick-up/ drop-off times **then please drop-off at latest time and pick up at earliest time**; this will remove the need for being on site for any longer than necessary. Please note Friday pick up time in table above.
- parents may not gather at entrance gates or doors,
- teachers/ TAs will not be able to speak directly with parents - communication will be via Dojo / phone/ email only.
- parents may not enter the building (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely).
- we have been asked to remind parents and carers of recommendations on transport to and from school, reducing any unnecessary travel on buses or public transport where possible (for example, by walking or cycling to school).
- We will use signage to guide parents and carers about where and when they should drop off and pick up their children and also safe distancing markers.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

In order to maintain the integrity of the 'bubbles' and prevent children and adults from different bubbles mixing, it is with regret that we are unable to run the Breakfast and After School Clubs during this initial re-opening period.

Friday afternoons

In order to ensure that the school receives a deep clean at the end of each week, we are closing early on Fridays after lunch. **See table above for details of times of pick-up on Fridays.**

I would also like to stress that although we cannot guarantee the prevention of COVID infection in school we will do our very best to minimise the risk of it by working together: children, parents/ carers, staff and governors.

What if my child is poorly, should they come to school?

If your child has any of the symptoms of COVID: continuous cough, high temperature or loss of the sense of smell or taste, then please do not send them to school. The same goes for other symptoms,

which are indirectly, linked with COVID for example general achiness, coughs, colds, upset stomachs and headaches etc. I would also appreciate if you could let the school know as you usually do. We want to be better safe than sorry.

What happens if someone becomes unwell in school or nursery?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or notifies staff of loss of senses of taste or smell, they will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to KS2 playground shelter area where they can be isolated with appropriate adult supervision at appropriate distance. If weather conditions (e.g. extreme cold) do not permit this then the Quiet Room will be used. Windows will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use the Men's disabled W/C.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). We will make the children familiar with the items of PPE when they are in school next week so that they are not frightened if and when we need to use it.

Will items be allowed back and forth from home to school and vice-versa?

- Children should not bring any toys/ items in from home.
- Items will not be made in school to be sent home with child.
- No reading books will go home because we cannot clean them, many more electronic reading books are available on Oxford Owl; your child's teacher will give you more information about this.
- Pupils will not bring any bags into school. If they are having a packed lunch, they bring it in its regular container.
- We ask that children bring in a drinking bottle for water.
- Pupils can bring coats but we ask please only do so when necessary.
- What about school uniform?
- Parents can opt either to send children in uniform or not in uniform whichever is easiest for them. But in order to minimise risk of infection we ask that children return in clean clothes next day. There is no need for anything other than normal washing of clothes following a day in a school. Please note children should not wear school ties.
- Pupils may wear trainers instead of shoes (ones that can be used for PE or outdoor play)
- Please do not bring PE kits to school

A request about pencils, crayons, rubbers and sharpeners

We are asking parents of children in **Reception, Year 1 and the critical worker children** to provide their children with a pencil, sharpener, rubber, set of coloured pencils or crayons and a small ruler if at all possible. This will remain in school. We do not have enough resources in school to provide

children with individual sets, so it would really help us out. This is a voluntary contribution and if you are not able to provide these items we will do our best to do so.

School will provide any children entitled to Free School Meals with a set of these items. We have purchased a set of clear plastic, wipeable pencil cases to house these items of stationery. This set will not be shared by any other children or adults.

What routines can my child expect in school?

There will be many changes to life in school although we will do our very best to ensure your child is as comfortable and happy as is possible. We will ask them to:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- follow instructions on who they can socialise with at school ☒ move around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queueing)
- follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes with hands ☒ tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus, cough, temp, smell & taste ☒ follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- follow amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play
- follow rules about use of toilets

Finally ...

I appreciate that there is a lot of information to take in and that you have read much of it before, so thank you for your time and attention. I hope that Monday will be the first step back to some kind of normality for many of us.

Once again, I want to thank you all for your support, the children, the staff, governors and parish for their continued hard work and care. The last few months have seen a huge team effort from the whole school community and I think you've all done a wonderful job and achieved a great deal. You should be very proud; I feel proud to be part of such a strong, caring community.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth

Headteacher