

Rationale for gradual re-opening the St. Nicholas School primary department -

Part of the return to school expansion plan

Following the government announcement about the re-opening of schools from 1st June we have created the following initial plan. The government have said that Special schools do not need to abide by their priorities of re-opening for years Reception, year 1 and Year 6. However, we acknowledge that pupils in primary have had fewer years within school, on which they can develop through accessing home learning. In consultation with parents, social workers and staff, we are therefore proposing the following:

- The current child care provision which has been running for 19 children within the primary department will continue to do so
- For the majority of these pupils, this will be absorbed into their classes, alongside some peers
- Children will attend on a part time basis to ensure that:
 - 1) Numbers do not exceed 4 children in a room, in line with other Kent special schools
 - 2) children with the most complex needs that compromise social distancing, either through primary care needs or behaviour, numbers within a class will not exceed 3 pupils
 - 3) Sufficient staffing is in place to ensure safety and for learning to begin again, but operates on the minimum number of adults to allow this, in order to reduce numbers of people in the building
 - 4) Sufficient time is given each week to facilitate deep cleaning
- We will seek to prioritise the admission of children for whom a transition into a new class for September is being planned for, especially where there is a significant change, such as into the secondary department or into an off-site satellite class
- Movement around the school building will be limited and arrival, leaving and break times will need to be staggered to minimise contact
- Children will be offered up to 2 days a week whilst we carefully widen the number of children coming into school
- Children accessing the child care provision will continue to attend on their days, although some amendments will need to be made to reflect the deep cleaning on a Wednesday.
- Parents will continue to be supported by home learning and catch-up conversations with the teacher, for those not attending school
- Parents who have expressed an interest in their child returning to school, through conversations with the class teacher, and or responding to the online survey will be offered a space, in line with the above conditions
- Teaching will need to incorporate an increase in hygiene routines throughout the school day, and pupils will need to sanitise their hands on arrival
- All staff and pupils will have their temperature taken on arrival. Anyone presenting with an elevated temperature will be sent home immediately
- Contact details for parents must be up to date and parents will need to be on call in the event that their child shows symptoms of COVID-19. In this event, parents will need to collect their child immediately and the class will shut with immediate effect. Parents of other children in that class will be informed and will need to isolate for a minimum of 7 days, with family members isolating for 14 days
- Teachers will need to spend time before 1st June creating spaces in their classrooms where social distancing can be attempted in a humane way, without adversely affecting the psychological needs of the pupils. For example, creating individual crates for learning, so that central resource sharing will be kept to a minimum.
- Outside spaces for those classes who have a designated area that can reduce physical contact between pupils, such as those outside Bear, Orangutan, Owls and Rainbow Fish classes should be used throughout the day, and kept closed to pupils from other classes.
- Outside spaces for Meerkat, Lions and Toucans will need to be planned with other classes using the spaces, or carefully used for children for whom the use of outside space forms parts of their behaviour or well-being support plans.