

Dear Parents/carers,

You will have heard through government announcements that school will open for ALL primary pupils from the 2nd September 2020. The children that have been working in school so far have returned with ease due to careful and cautious planning to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place. We are now delighted that we can look forward to seeing all of our wonderful children back in school next term. We have been very busy over the last week completing plans and working out exactly how school will look and feel when your child returns.

The Government has stated: 'Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)' Despite this, I appreciate there may still be some apprehension following the children being at home for so long so have included an overview of our plans for the children from year R -6 which will hopefully allay some of those concerns.

Groupings

The children will be grouped together in year groups and the contact with other groups of children will be minimised through staggered start, finish, break and lunch times. The groups will also be spread out through the use of different entrances, collection areas and playgrounds. We are lucky at Unity Academy that we have space to allow this and in order to accommodate more usable outside space for children to assemble, all car parking at the front of school is closed.

Curriculum

We intend to keep changes to the curriculum to an absolute minimum. We intend to provide as full a range of subjects and activities as possible. We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning in September, after some months out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our schools as safe as can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for any pupils that need it, and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required. Your children deserve a great, and safe education and we will not let them down. With this letter is a letter from your child's teacher and their first knowledge organisers so you can prepare for their learning.

Morning / end of school Start and finish times will be staggered to prevent too many parents being on the playground at one time. Due to minimising large groups, our before school free breakfast provision will no longer be operating. We are currently reviewing how to deliver it going forward and will keep you informed.

The arrangements are as follows:

Year group	Arrival	Collection
Reception (From 21st September onwards)	8.40- 8.50 am through R,1 and 2 gate and through to the reception classes	2.55 pm through R,1 and 2 gate and through to the reception classes
Year 1	8.40-8.50 am through R,1 and 2 pedestrian gate - drop off at the Yr1 and 2 playground. Children will go straight into Yr 1 classrooms	2.55 pm Collection from waiting area Yr 3/4 playground
Year 2	8.50-9.00 am through R,1 and 2 pedestrian gate - drop off at the Yr1 and 2 playground. Children will go straight into Yr 2 classrooms	3.05pm Collection from waiting area Yr 3/4 playground
Year 3	8.40-8.50 am Year 3,4 pedestrian gate - straight into Yr 3 classrooms via nursery stairs	2.55pm Collection from waiting area outside Nursery
Year 4	8.50-9.00 am Yr 3,4 pedestrian gate - straight into Yr 4 classrooms via nursery stairs	3.05pm Collection from waiting area outside Nursery
Year 5	8.50-9.00am Yr 5/ 6 pedestrian gate straight into classrooms.	3.05pm Leave through the same gate (not back of school) and leave or walk down the path to waiting areas to meet parents.
Year 6	8.40-8.50am Yr 5/ 6 pedestrian gate straight into classrooms.	2.55pm Leave through the same gate (not back of school) and leave or walk down the path to waiting areas to meet parents.

Collection points will be clearly marked on the playground to avoid too many parents being in the same area and we ask that children arrive/leave school promptly to prevent too many adults/children gathering at any one time. We also ask that parents remain in this area and the children will be delivered to you. This may take some time for the first few days - please be patient. These social distancing rules must be respected to prevent school having to take further action which could ultimately result in being banned from the school site.

If possible school asks that only one parent picks up/drops off. If siblings have been given different start and finish times then they can both/all be collected from the collection area for the youngest child.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear full uniform from September, a copy of our uniform policy is included with this letter. Outdoor learning where possible will still be being encouraged so please ensure that your child has sensible flat school shoes on every day and a pair of pumps in their PE kit. If your child is wearing a face mask to travel to and from school they will need to remove it for the school day. If it is disposable then they will need to throw it away in a covered bin. If it is reusable then they need to place it into a resealable plastic bag during the day.

Hygiene

The children will be provided with their own individual supply of resources to use throughout the school day and any shared equipment will be rotated and cleaned frequently. Any soft furnishings have been removed from the classrooms. The tables will be positioned in the classrooms to be front facing where possible. Children will be asked to wash their hands on entering and leaving the classroom, after visiting the toilet and before lunch. This will be supervised to ensure thoroughness and hand sanitiser will be available too. The children will be working in the same classroom and movement around the school will be minimised. The classrooms will be well ventilated at all times. Where children are moving as a class, social distancing will be adhered to where possible and the children will be reminded both verbally and with marks on the floor to remain separated. No more than one child at a time will be able to access the toilet blocks and the classrooms and toilets will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.

Lunchtime and breaktime

The children will be having staggered break and lunch times to allow only one year group at a time to be in any eating or playing area. Normal arrangements for lunch will return. Please let us know if there are any changes to your child's lunch arrangements by ringing the school office. All play equipment used by the children will be cleaned between use.

Behaviour

It is essential that all government guidelines can be followed, any incidents of unsafe behaviour or refusal to do as asked to support this will result in a phone call home. If this is the case you will be required to collect your child immediately and to remove them from school. They will be allowed to return only when we (you as parents and us as a school) feel that they understand the seriousness of following the rules.

Absence/illness

In March when the COVID-19 outbreak was increasing, the government made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible any longer term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Therefore from September school attendance is again mandatory and usual rules on school attendance apply.

In line with government guidance if your child or anyone in the household shows signs of COVID-19 they must self isolate. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Symptoms are a persistent cough, anosmia and/or a high temperature. If your child is due to come in but is going to be absent you must ring school to inform us of the reason why.

For further information, please continue to check our website where there will be information and videos for you to watch with your child.

If you have any further questions please contact school through generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support. It has been greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

B. Latham.

Beth Latham
Director of Primary Standards

