

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well.

I am now in a position to share with you our plans for a partial re-opening and phased return on 15th June. These plans are based on the guidance from the UK government and the recommendations of Sefton Council. We are awaiting Sefton Local Authority to approve our risk assessment; once returned this will be published on our school website. However, we are conscious that you are awaiting this information and did not want to further delay sending this out.

Please be assured that we are all working tirelessly to ensure that school is as safe as it possibly can be for when the children return. However, there are a number of logistical difficulties that may affect the provision that we can offer in the coming weeks.

If we follow government plans for all reception, Y1 and Y6 children to return, together with the current growing numbers of critical worker children from Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y5, we will not be able to accommodate all of the children safely.

Therefore, we have taken the decision to initially open from the 15th June for vulnerable and critical worker children only. Classroom sizes limit the maximum number of children that we can accommodate. When abiding by the 2m social distance and taking into account the ages of children, our bubbles will need to be smaller than the recommended 15 for safety purposes. We are already at capacity with critical worker/vulnerable. Taking into account the building work, classroom sizes, number of toilets and entrances/exits on site, we feel this is the safest amount of children to bring back on site.

Guiding Principles:

1. To prioritise the safety and health of children, parents and staff;
2. To minimise the risk of transmission and infection;
3. To use our best endeavours to provide education for the children back in school.

Organisation:

In order to safely place the children across the school, the following provisions will be made:

- Children will be placed in bubbles of no more than 15 (reception to Y6). When allocated a bubble, the children will remain in this bubble for the rest of this academic year even if they do not attend daily. This place cannot be given to another child once allocated.
- Each bubble will be allocated a teacher and at least one teaching assistant.
- Each bubble will remain within a classroom, except to use the allocated toilets and allocated outdoor areas. Our aim is to use the outdoors as much as possible.
- There will be allocated entrances, opening times, break times, lunchtimes, collection times and collection points implemented for each bubble.
- Letters will be provided for parents of children in each bubble informing them of these specific details prior to their return date.

- Strict toileting and handwashing provision will be put in place.
- In order to reduce the risk of infection and transmission, children and staff from each bubble will have no contact with children and staff from any other bubble during the working day.
- Mrs Robinson, Mrs Pritchard and Mr Hampson will supervise the bubbles and be the only people to interact with members of separate bubbles, whilst adhering to the 2m social distancing rules.
- Children will have their own stationery sets (provided by school) and their own workspace.

Clothing: Pupils are to wear their own practical, casual clothing. This should be freshly laundered daily. They should also have a waterproof coat and sun hat if required. Sun cream to be applied before arriving at school as sun cream cannot be brought into school.

Medication: If your child requires prescribed medication, please ensure that it is brought to school on the first day with their name clearly displayed. Please advise school if your child suffers from hay fever. If you are able to get new inhalers, please do so.

Lunchtimes: In order to minimise risk further, packed lunches must be brought into school in a named, disposable bag. Children entitled to Free School Meals and Universal Meals (rec, Y1, Y2) will be provided with a packed lunch. Lunchtimes will be staggered and children will eat their lunch in the classroom and have a break outside afterwards.

Classroom Organisation: In classrooms, desks will be spaced out in accordance with the 2m social distancing rules. Staff are encouraged to remain standing when speaking to children to prevent their faces being close to children's faces. Each bubble will have an allocated outdoor space for outdoor learning.

Toilets: A system of one-in one-out will operate with the toilets. A member of staff will escort the child to the toilets and wait outside to ensure no one else uses the toilets at the same time.

Drop off and collection of children: It is expected that all children are brought to school and collected by ONE ADULT ONLY at their designated time. **It is imperative that family members follow directions and leave as soon as their child is safely in school** to facilitate safe social distancing. All adults waiting at drop off and collection points must keep a safe 2m distance away from each other.

Siblings

Siblings are being asked to come to school at the latest sibling start time/drop-off point and leave at the earliest siblings' finish time/collection point.

Teaching and Learning

Priorities for children at this time are resocialisation into new style school routines; speaking and listening and regaining momentum in particular with reading, phonics, writing and maths. For those children not returning to school online learning will continue.

Below is a summary of the measures we will put into place for your child's return to school:

- Small groups - maximum of 15
- Classroom set up with desks 2m apart and individual equipment trays provided
- Children may not be with their own teacher or in their own classroom
- Bubbles cannot mix
- Staggered starts, playtimes, lunchtimes and finishes
- Separate entrances and exits

- Doors wedged open where possible to avoid touching handles
- School surfaces cleaned twice daily and deep cleaned on Fridays
- Information will be provided for each bubble detailing what time to come to school, where to enter and what time to be collected etc.
- Social distancing and handwashing will be of the upmost importance. Staff will continue to remind pupils as often as possible and signs will be displayed around school.
- To avoid cross contamination children are not to bring anything into school other than their packed lunch and water bottle. They will also not take anything home including reading books. Children are to continue using bug club at this time.
- Verbal feedback will be provided instead of marking books again to avoid cross contamination.

I appreciate school will look and feel very different and we will endeavour to ensure that the children still see it as a happy, welcoming and friendly place. We will try our upmost to ensure that they stay socially distant but I know you will appreciate that this can be a difficult task and as practitioners we would never leave a child who has fallen over and hurt themselves feeling upset. We will be sending out videos of school shortly so you can show the children what it will look like before they return. We also have a story for you to share with the younger children as well as a home school agreement which points out what we all need to do during this time.

Key worker numbers are continuing to grow daily and should numbers of children wanting to return, exceed our provision, I will seek Sefton guidance.

Please note: all of the arrangements detailed in this letter are subject to change following National and/or local guidance. Should this happen, you will be informed immediately.

I am very grateful for your patience and understanding during this very difficult time. I am aware and understand the pressures and anxieties that the current situation is placing on you and your children. I also appreciate that staggered times may cause some difficulties, however this is the only way we can accommodate so many children on site safely. We have been in discussion with Charlotte at the OOSC to provide provision for parents struggling with the staggered times. Please contact Charlotte on 07442 496037 if you require a place in the club. Be aware that OOSC also have to follow guidance regarding social distancing so numbers will be limited and there will be a charge for this provision.

Due to staggered start and finish times the OOSC will be operating slightly differently hours.

Breakfast Club 8am - 10am (if using this facility, children must arrive no later than 8.20am)

After School 2pm - 5pm (if using this facility, children must not be collected before 3.40pm to limit the number of parents visiting site at the same time)

I also appreciate that we still do not have answers regarding when the remaining children will return and I apologise for this. I want nothing more than to have all the children back in school and as soon as guidance changes I will ensure this happens. We aim to keep in regular contact with families who are not returning. I am sure you appreciate that my priority at this time is the health and safety of the community.

You will receive a text message tomorrow advising which bubble your child/ren has been allocated.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care.

Kind regards,

Mrs Robinson