

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure that the majority of you will have watched the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday evening and read subsequent details either online or in the media.

You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1st June, starting with pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Six. This is part of the government's conditional plan which it says will remain under regular review and is based on the assumption that the rate of infection remains at the current level or lower.

I have been very clear from when this all began that the safety of everyone in the school community is paramount. Whilst we all want more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so, I want to stress once again that my first priority has to be the health and well-being of all our children, families and staff.

This phased re-opening of schools needs to be done carefully and safely and I am sure you will bear with us whilst we do this. We will be sending you more information as things become clearer to us and we receive further guidance from central government, the DfE and the Local Authority.

Whatever happens before September, it is extremely unlikely that school life will look anything like it did before lockdown. As you can imagine, social distancing is an unclear concept for many of our children and especially the youngest. People are still advised to minimise their social contact. This is likely to have a significant impact on the number of adults available to work in our school and therefore the number of children in school at any one time will need to be much reduced. This means that we have much planning (including maintaining our virtual learning), risk assessments and safeguarding issues to work through before we can open the school safely.

For our school in particular, with mixed year groups and a 45 child intake, there are extra issues raised. We have had to think about how we will minimise numbers, how we will maintain the Google Classrooms for those year groups not in (whilst their teachers may well be teaching in school) and how we will ensure we have enough classrooms and staff members to split the children to an appropriate level. We also need to ensure that there is the space and enough adults for those children where both parents are key workers.

We have a very tentative plan at this time, which I **must** stress is very much subject to change. The reason I am sharing some details is to enable those who may be thinking about going back to work, to start to make plans.

It is important to note that all drop off, break, lunch and pick up times will be staggered and there will be a queuing system, marked out on the floor, that we will ask you to follow on your way into the entrance of the school. We will request that, if at all possible, only one parent bring their child to school, siblings do not come with and that you avoid using public transport (again if at all possible) when coming to, or returning from, school. Year Six children will be asked to be lone travellers where possible.

Parents will not be allowed onto the school premises. When your child returns to school we will assign you a time slot for drop off and collection, please help us by being prompt and following this direction.

The children will be split into smaller groups for their learning. They will stay with this group for all of the time that they are in school, in one designated room (except for when they go outside for playtime). They will have a teacher that stays with them for that time, thus limiting contact with different adults. Please note that the teacher will not necessarily be

their class teacher. The splitting of the years into groups means that the children will have more space to learn and therefore will be able to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

(Please note in the information that follows the times are an example to give you a basic idea.)

Three mornings a week the **Reception children** will be in (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). They will be dropped off at school at the normal time and picked up before lunchtime (i.e. around midday).

Three afternoons a week the **Year One children** will be in (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). They will be dropped off at school around 1pm and picked up around normal time.

The focus for these groups of children will be English and maths based (Reception through play based learning where possible).

Two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), **Year Six children** will be in for full days. They will not be doing maths and English during this time but will be working on a transition curriculum.

The key worker classroom will be primarily for those children who have been with us whilst we have been a childcare facility and I need to make you aware that further spaces will be very limited. When parents ask for these spots, I will be asking for more detail, including work rota information. This is not due to mistrust, but due to the fact that there are so few places and we must ensure those that need it most will receive a space.

Since we closed at the end of March the school has had a deep clean and the limited areas we have been using for the key worker children will be deep cleaned during the half term holiday. We have been following the up to date guidance from the Government with regards to cleaning since the outbreak of COVID 19 and will continue to do so once we are open to more children.

On the same principle as we followed at the start of this outbreak, if your child, or anyone in your household should develop symptoms, you must not send them into school and you must inform us immediately. As your child will be coming to school, they will be entitled to be tested (if they are the one with symptoms), so you will be able to contact your doctor to arrange this.

We will be providing school lunches for Year Six children and the key worker children in our child care provision as before. We also plan to offer Breakfast Club and After School Club.

Whilst we appreciate this is an unsettling time and that our part time model may not be easy for those with work commitments, given the number of children in our cohorts and the way our classes are split, there was no other feasible way of making this work under current requirements. Please be assured that we are putting everything in place that we possibly can to ensure that your child and our staff remain safe and well.

The expectation will be that your child come to school on their allotted days. Please note that there will not be any penalty if your child does not attend, but we would expect a daily phone call to explain their absence.

There will of course be further information to follow but in the meantime, we are really looking forward to seeing you and your children again.