



Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you all remain safe and well. I want to begin by thanking you for your kindness, care, co-operation and support since school closed to the majority of children on March 20th. I know that it has been a difficult time juggling family responsibilities, home learning and home working but our whole school family have appreciated the efforts that you have all made to 'stay at home, to keep safe and to protect the NHS'. We all want to see our wonderful school up and running again and look forward to welcoming your child back. And, following a meeting of the Governing Body on Friday 5th of June a decision was reached to initiate a phased wider reopening of school from Monday 15th June beginning with the reintroduction of Reception and Year 6. And then a provisional date for reopening Year 1 on Monday 29th June if possible.

The government has stipulated that we should open school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 aged children where possible and we are adhering to their guidelines to ensure that all children and staff are as safe as they can be in our setting – this has meant moving year groups to new classes and different staff as well as cleaning and changing the layout and set up across the whole school.

Despite these changes to how we do things we will ensure that the children's emotional wellbeing comes first, and we will be including lots of positive messages about hygiene, keeping ourselves safe and discussing feelings about change.

To enable us to do this, we have set up at least 2 "bubbles" for each year group and this will replace the normal class group. This will allow children to be part of a friendship group whilst maintaining safe group sizes.

Please ensure you also read the additional letter for your child's year group and the phase reopening plan with details like drop off times and drop off points (please see Phase reopening booklet available on our website News). And remember if you are dropping your child off to ensure that you adhere to social distancing rules with other parents when waiting with or for your child.

Please note that the biggest change to our school week to enable this is that this provision will only be available Monday to Thursday until the end of Term. School will be closed to all staff and pupils every Friday across ALL groups including Keyworker Childcare – this will allow a sterile 72-hour period before reopening each week. We will no longer have capacity to move children between rooms and spaces, or staffing to cover the additional day when staff will be working on remote learning, supporting vulnerable children and families and making welfare calls for all those year groups who have still not returned to school.

Below is an outline of other important changes to note:

- Children need to be brought to school and collected from school **by a member of their household** and not a childminder or family member that do not live with them. This may change if the government relax their guidance on social contact in the future
- Each "bubble" will have access to an indoor and outdoor environment every day. We will be allowing the children to play in the same area of the environment but will give age-appropriate reminders about social distancing and over-crowding an area. There will be staggered outdoor play and lunchtimes, with very limited contact between different bubbles. Each child will eat their lunch within their room with the same staff each day

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- We will be making as much use of the outdoor play environment as possible as medical research shows there is less risk of infection when in the fresh air. We anticipate that the vast majority of our curriculum will be delivered outdoors until the end of the summer term. Please ensure that your child comes dressed appropriately for the weather each day
- If a person within the bubble family tests positive for Covid-19, the whole group MUST self-isolate for 14 days
- There will be limited access to resources to reduce the possibility of cross contamination. We have been advised to remove certain play equipment e.g. playdough, water, sand, etc from all our environments. Certain resources will have to be cleaned by staff each day. To minimise the spread of the virus, children will be encouraged not to bring **any** resources to or from school
- Children will be reminded regularly of the needs for frequent handwashing throughout the school day (at least 5 times a day)
- Staff administering first aid or care needs will be required to wear PPE
- Unfortunately, parents will not be permitted to enter the school building at any point during the school day so we kindly request that all communication is done via email or telephone, and only in exceptional circumstances the school office.
- Children will have their lunchbox cleaned with anti-bacterial spray when entering school and they need to **bring their own water bottle** into school - they must be named and taken home for cleaning and refilling each day – those receiving a school dinner will be provided with a packed lunch meal each day.
- Please could you ensure that your child wears clean clothing each day – this does not have to be school uniform as long as it is practical for indoor and outdoor play
- Unfortunately, there will be no whole school events such as sports day, leaver concert, parent evening etc.
- Parents will need to be contactable at all times while their child is in school and must be able to collect them within a half hours' notice if they or another school member displays symptoms of Covid-19
- If a child is being collected before or after their allocated beginning or end time, parents must not enter the school site but ring the school office on arrival.

We know that there are lots of changes and they can seem overwhelming for parents, but there will be many things staying the same too. We will do everything we can to make sure your child is kept safe and happy. As you have chosen to send your child back, we know that you are supporting us in this unfamiliar time. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back your child for the last few weeks of term and will strive to make this a positive experience for them. In preparation of this return can we ask that you talk to your child about how the school will be different and check our school website for pictures of how different the areas are looking and the differences they will see – including floor markings, one way arrows, classes with table separated and in rows, empty spaces where normal resources have been removed, individual zip bags with personal resources etc – hopefully this will remove any worry and anxieties they have before being faced with all the changes upon their return.

Please continue to stay safe at home.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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