



21st May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

PREPARING FOR THE PHASED RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS

You will be aware the government has asked us to prepare to accept more children back into school after half term, **if the conditions are right for them to do so.**

Over the last week or so, we have been exploring how we can make this happen taking into account the government's guidance on the implementation of protective measures in education and childcare settings. I would like to thank you for responding to our survey, as the results have been very helpful in this process.

The government continues to update its guidance - often daily - and this is making it very difficult to finalise our plans. In addition, the government has consistently said schools will only re-open if it is safe to do so. **We have been told a final decision may not be made until as late as 28th May and it remains possible the government will ask us to open later or not at all.**

The number of children who are likely to return, coupled with those already attending, means we may have to consider staggering when particular year groups are invited back. The government's guidance is clear: **children of critical / key workers and vulnerable children are our main priority**, followed by the youngest children – Nursery, Reception – then Year 1 and finally, Year 6. Consequently, it is not yet definite whether more children can go to school from 1st June. **Please do not send your child to school unless you have heard from us what the specific arrangements will be.** Once we have firm plans, we will inform you as soon as possible, this may be during half term.

At present, we are working towards this model:

Monday 1st June	Wednesday 3rd June	Monday 8th June	Wednesday 10th June	Monday 15th June
Critical workers	Critical workers Nursery	Critical workers Nursery Reception	Critical workers Nursery Reception Year 1	Critical workers Nursery Reception Year 1 Year 6

This **plan is dependent** on the government's decision to reopen from the 1st June and the **number of critical worker pupils that attend school.** Safety of pupils, parents and staff are the priority.

Children from priority groups will be encouraged to attend school **if we re-open after half term**, but as it stands, attendance regulations are suspended and this means they are not required to.



We understand that you will want to know what we intend to do to reduce risks and protect your children while they are in school, we have used the DFE guidance to inform our provision. Our plans will be updated as and when the guidance changes. Currently, we intend to:

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by asking parents not to send poorly children into school and sending children home who do not feel well during the day. Where appropriate, we will ask parents to follow the self- and household-isolation guidance and arrange a test for their child.
- Children will wash their hands regularly and at key points during the day.
- Continue to ensure there is enhanced cleaning each evening and additional cleaning throughout the day (e.g. frequently touched surfaces, tables, toilets some resources).
- Organise the children into 'bubble groups' of up to 15 children – they will use the same classroom throughout the week, designated toilets and specific doors / routes to enter and exit the building. They will eat and play together. The purpose of this approach is to minimise contact and mixing of children.
- Arrange classrooms to promote social distancing. The children will have their own set of key equipment (e.g. pencils, pens, ruler etc). Shared resources will only be used by a specific 'bubble group' or washed in between.
- Ask parents NOT to send bags/bookbags into school. PE kits should be sent in on a Monday, taken home, and washed on a Friday. Lunchboxes (choose foods that are easy for your child to open/pre opened) and water must be taken home and washed every day. Reading books will not be sent home.
- Stagger/Separate break times and lunchtimes have been considered to minimise contact between groups.
- Pupils can either bring in their own packed lunch or have a packed lunch provided by school.
- Promote social distancing before and after school, we will ask only one parent drops off and collects. Further details of staggered pick up/drop off arrangements will be confirmed.

Please be aware that for operational reasons we are currently planning to close the school to all pupils and staff on a Friday afternoon from 12.00pm (before lunch) in order to complete a deep clean.

We are intending to continue setting work on Edmodo for all year groups. However, this will be modified to allow for staff teaching full time in school.

I am sorry I cannot give you information that is more definitive at this stage. It is as frustrating for us as I am sure it is for you! Please be assured that the health and safety of pupils, parents and staff is our key priority. We will be in touch again as soon as we have final confirmation from the government. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and patience.

Yours faithfully,

R. Dean

Headteacher