



15 May 2020

To All Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers

Possible Reopening of School to More Pupils in June

We know you've seen in the news that Primary schools may reopen from 1 June to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, if the government thinks it's safe and schools can implement social distancing. We have been open for a small number of keyworker children during this time. We will continue to offer provision to these children. I need to draw your attention to the fact that the guidance is **different** for Special Schools. For SEN schools the Government have issued guidance that includes:

'To work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups and informed by risk assessments.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

We have decided we are going to try to follow the Year groups suggested by the Government but in a staggered way, beginning with Year 6. Every child in Primary will need to be risk assessed to ensure it is suitable and safe for your child to return to school in some capacity. If we can teach Year 6 SEN pupils to socially distance, we will then gradually move to other Year groups in Primary.

By the **start of July** we will look to bring in any Year 10 pupils who will be sitting exams next year. Otherwise, the Secondary Department will not be opening apart from keyworker pupils.

Our risk assessment for all children will need to include the following guidance and areas of concern raised by the Government and from our knowledge of your child:

- Avoidance of contact with anyone with symptoms (e.g. if your child has a cold, cough, temperature or any of the symptoms they will not be allowed in school).
- Ensuring frequent hand cleaning (e.g. can your child follow instructions/be supported to wash hands for the required 20 secs without becoming distressed).
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene practices (e.g. can your child catch a cough or sneeze in a tissue and then bin the tissue or would staff need to wipe their nose).

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- Minimising contact and mixing (e.g. we need to ensure that classes are smaller, not mixing, with the appropriate number of adults). So can your child cope with unfamiliar adults?
- Can your child follow guidance on not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose?
- Is your child able to practice the 2-metre social distancing guidance when supported?
- Does your child have additional needs which mean they could be upset or exhibit challenging behaviour when placed in an unfamiliar setting, with unfamiliar staff?
- Does your child have additional hygiene needs that require staff support?
- Does your child, or any member of their family, have underlying health conditions?

An example would be: children with underlying health conditions are classed as high risk, so they would not be able to attend. Likewise, if your child is in a house with a person who is shielding, they could not attend.

We also need to consider that, should your child be invited to return, there will definitely be a very high chance that they will have a different teacher or teaching assistant because many staff are self-isolating, shielding, have underlying health conditions, are pregnant or unable to travel on public transport. The children may also be in unfamiliar settings.

I am currently conducting a survey to ascertain how many staff will be able to work and if I do not have enough staff to run a year group safely, this may not be able to happen.

Once we have completed the risk assessments, we will contact parents of Year 6 pupils and let them know whether we can offer provision or not. **Please note that we will not pressurise you to send your child in, as the Government have said there will be no penalties for parents who choose to keep their children at home.**

Once Year 6 have settled in and we are sure it is safe, we will risk assess Year 1 and contact parents to ask if you want a place.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to offer some schooling to these year groups if it is safe for our school to reopen from 1 June. However, it will be a slow, gradual phased return which may include a change to start times and end of day timings and may also not be 5 days a week.

We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision. We will send you information as soon as we have this but we will need you to understand that it will be almost impossible for staff to make social distancing work successfully for SEN Reception and KS1 children. If your child attends on LA Transport, you will need to consider if social distancing will be possible and discuss this with LA Transport, not the school.

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We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other children in different year groups until we receive further Government guidance.

If you decide not to take up provision, teachers will continue to supply learning packs and support.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home and more work packs will be delivered within the next few weeks.

If you have any questions, please ask your class teacher next time they contact you. We are endeavouring to run all Annual Reviews by telephone or Skype/Zoom.

Hopefully, we are looking forward to seeing you and your children again in the not too distant future. We will be putting the health and well-being of our children and their families at the heart of all the difficult decisions we need to make.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Meredith'.

Tracy Meredith
Headteacher