



Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

From the week commencing 1st June at the earliest, the government will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups.

The government wants to get all children and young people back into education as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because of how important it is for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers, carers and teachers. Children returning to educational and childcare settings in greater numbers will also allow more families to return to work.

They are therefore gradually increasing the numbers of children and young people attending schools and colleges. This government's decision is based on the latest scientific advice. By returning pupils gradually, settings can initially reduce the number of children and young people in classrooms compared to usual and put protective measures in place.

The DfE guidance says:

*'One of the protective measures we can take to reduce transmission is to have smaller group and class sizes. **We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff.** In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out in our guidance:*

- *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices*
- *regular cleaning of settings*
- *and minimising contact and mixing'*

Please be aware that we will do all we can to support social distancing but cannot guarantee that children remain 2m apart from each other and staff throughout the whole of each day.

Thank you to all the families of the above year groups for letting us know your initial thoughts on whether you are likely to return your child to school in June. We are currently completing our risks assessments and planning measures within the context of our school but in line with government guidelines.

The timescales for the potential return for various year groups are being confirmed this week and precise details and arrangements will be shared with you before the end of the week.

Week beginning May 25th is half-term and we are closed for the whole of this week.

I know many of you will be understandably worried and anxious about returning your child to school so I will use this opportunity to attempt to answer some of your questions and hopefully ease some potential anxieties.

FAQs

Questions about measures in place to reduce the risk of virus spread via airborne aerosol droplets (coughing & sneezing).

1. Will social distancing measures be in place as per current government guidance (see links section at the end of this letter)

Children will be in small class groups or phase groups that remain together and do not mix with other groups across the school. We are calling these groups '**Bubbles**.' Each Bubble will have a name or number.

Nursery children will be in groups of 5 -10. Children will attend by invitation only and this will be phased over a period of time. (2 Bubbles initially, working up to 4 Bubbles)

F2 (Reception)/Y1 will be grouped in line with their reading and phonics abilities. (6 Bubbles)

Y6 will be in 4 mixed ability groups. (4 Bubbles)

THERE WILL BE A MAXIMUM OF 15 CHILDREN IN EACH BUBBLE. Most Bubbles have less than 10 children requesting places at present.

- Children will mix in these small consistent groups and inter group mixing will be avoided. Teaching staff will remain with their **Bubble** where possible.
- Play and break times will be in Bubbles in allocated zones in the school grounds. These will be staggered throughout the day.
- One-way systems and door entry and exit will be in operation to reduce the risk of transitory spread of the virus.
- Rooms will be accessed directly from the outside where possible.
- One-way circulation and corridor dividers will be in place where useful.
- Outdoor equipment protocol and appropriate cleaning will be in place.
- Shared rooms/areas will be used with much reduced occupancy. This includes areas such as staff rooms and offices.

2. Will unnecessary visitors be permitted onto the premises?

No, and all potential 'pinch-points' will be avoided at drop off and pick up.

Drop off will be staggered;

8.45am - 4 x Y6 Groups

9.00am - 3 x Y1 Groups

9.15am - 3 x F2 Groups

9.30am/1pm - 1 x F1 Group at each time

Pick up will be staggered;

11.45am/2.15pm - 1 x F1 Group

2.30pm - 3 x F2 Groups

2.45pm - 3 x Y1 Groups

3.00pm - 4 x Y6 Groups

3. Which gates will be used for drop off and pick up to avoid congestion;

- Nursery Pedestrian Gate (A) - F1/Red Bubble/Orange Bubble/Y6 Bubble 1
- Glapton Lane Pedestrian Gate (B) - Yellow Bubble/Purple Bubble/Y6 Bubble 2
- Manor Farm Lane Pedestrian Gate (C) - Blue Bubble/Green Bubble/Y6 Bubble 3
- Green Lane Pedestrian Gate (D) - Y6 Bubble 4/Key workers and other registered for childcare.
- Teachers will open gates and receive or dismiss children into or from socially distanced lines (using cones).
- Parents will not be permitted on site.
- Non-essential building work and maintenance will only to be undertaken once a sound risk based case is made and agreed with the Headteacher.
- Staff will ensure children keep as distanced as possible and organise routines for staggered organisation of resources e.g. coats will be in place.

You will be informed of your child's Bubble later this week.

Questions about measures that will be in place to reduce the risk of virus spread via physical contact (Surface/object to Person).

1. Will handwashing & hygiene guidance be closely followed?

- Handwashing guidance will be closely followed on arrival entering the school, after sneezing, coughing and toilet use. Also prior to and after eating and regularly throughout the day - this will be timetabled by staff.
- Soap, gels and paper towels are provided, checked and replenished regularly.
- Staff and pupils will be briefed on the risks from touching their face.
- Help is available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently through guidance and video and song.

2. Will measures be in place to prevent my child touching objects that may be infected?

- Lessons are being planned around reducing the need to touch objects /surfaces.
- Each child will have their own labelled resource pack.
- Each child will have a labelled work station (or gather spot in EYFS).
- No shared resources will be used except in EYFS.
- Resources in EYFS will be larger washable resources available only in designated places that children can rotate to e.g. tough spots.
- Children will be encouraged to play as distanced as is possible and where possible.
- Books sharing in EYFS will be limited and books swapped every 3 days.
- Surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, will be cleaned more regularly than normal with deployment of our cleaning personnel throughout the day.
- Personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day at school will be emphasized to staff and parents.
- Internal doors will be propped open, where safe to do so, in order to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation.

- Outdoor learning to be used as much as possible in zones but with no use of hard play equipment.

3. How will First Aid be administered?

- Only designated staff who have been briefed on the updated first aid risk assessment will be involved in first aid activity (i.e. within 2 metres). These staff will be allocated to each Bubble.
- The exception to this will be if a serious or life threatening or time critical incident is in progress.
- Current advice will be followed on the use of PPE but basic PPE is available for any toilet accidents, first aid with an additional supply in Nursery and EYFS and for first aiders.

4. What will happen if a child cannot follow instructions in relation to these measures?

- In cases where pupils are repeatedly non-compliant in following instructions due to poor behaviour the pupil will be removed from the classroom setting and if necessary, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss or collect their child.

5. What measures are in place if a child or member of staff displays symptoms?

- Two containment rooms are available. One in each building. These are ventilated and can be closed. Exit for the infected person to leave the site is by an outside door preventing any further contact within school.

General Queries.

1. Will my child be required to wear school uniform?

- Yes, your child will be returning to school, not to childcare so should wear school uniform. This should be machine washed each evening. PE Kit is not required at this time.
- If your child is attending the child care provision, then uniform is not required.

2. Will my child be able to bring a packed lunch?

- All children attending in Reception and Year 1 will be supplied with a packed lunch each day. Children in Year 6 in receipt of free school meals will also be provided with a packed lunch.
- Children in Nursery that stay all day will also be provided with a packed lunch. Please may we request you resume payments for this lunch-time provision on the School Gateway App.
- No packed lunches from home will be permitted unless for a validated medical reason approved by the Headteacher.
- Children in Year 6 not in receipt of free school meals are required to purchase a school packed lunch and make the payment via the School Gateway App.

3. How will I talk to school if I am not permitted on site?

- Mrs Hurst and Miss Devi will be on duty each morning and evening and can take queries at the gate as long as stringent social distancing measures are observed.
- Emails and phone calls will be responded to daily as-well.

4. How will I deliver any medicine to school?

- Medicine forms will need to be filled in before you arrive (available on the website) and these, with your child's medicine, in its original labelled box, in date and with a readable prescription, may be handed to the teacher in a drop off box.
- Medicines requiring administration 3 times a day and not specifying a lunch time dose should be administered at home.

I'm sure there will be many more questions and we will endeavour to have them all answered before June 1st however, I hope this answers some of your most pressing questions but I also need to remind you that advice from the DfE is updated daily and so all of our risk assessments and planning are constantly subject to change.

Please find below a link to the DfE advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

I will be in touch with you directly later in the week to inform you of which group your child will be allocated to, their designated staff and their gates for drop off and pick up.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. C Hurst BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH NLE
Headteacher