

Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have received guidance from the DfE about measures to be taken in school to reduce the risk of COVID19 infection should some children be able to return to school on 1st June. Please see the guidance below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

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

Guidance for parents/carers on phased reopening.

We recently sent an email to every parent/carer who has a child in the specified year groups, to ask them if they would like their child to return, potentially on the 1st June to school. Please could you respond to this email as a matter of urgency no later than 3pm on Tuesday 19th May? We understand this is a tight deadline however; we will need this information to plan effectively.

We have made some tentative plans to bring children back in to school safely. I wanted to write and let you know what school will look like for those children who return and to answer some of the concerns that have been raised. School will not look the way it normally does, particularly for our youngest children. We will need to change the layout of classrooms and it will not be possible to allow free movement or play. Every child will be provided with their own tray containing all the resources they will require each day. These resources will not be shared with other children.

We are hoping to carry out temperature checks as the children arrive at school and at lunchtime for each child and member of staff. Although we would not expect any child to be brought to school with a temperature, we feel this is necessary to reassure all parents/carers and staff that we are keeping the chances of an outbreak to a minimum.

How will you keep the children apart?

Children will attend in small groups or 'bubbles'; the guidance suggests no more than 15 children in any room at any time. Each group or 'bubble' of children will have their own area, teacher/or teaching assistant, toilet, play space etc. It is recommended that each 'bubble' is kept separate from all the others and that children and adults stay within the same 'bubble' throughout. **This means that your child may have a teacher or teaching assistant that they are not familiar with, on their return and that they may not see all their friends at school.** We have asked all staff members to be leaders of a 'bubble', therefore your child may be taught by a teacher or a teaching assistant. This will consist of Team 1 Staff Week 1 and Team 2 Staff Week 2, where possible. We will still need to provide online learning for those children not in the specified groups.

We will attempt to keep children 2 metres apart at all times, (included when seated) but this has proved to be very difficult as I mentioned in my previous letter, particularly with the younger children. Children will be reminded of social distancing rules, tables and seats will be separated and children will each have their own equipment.

We will be staggering break & lunchtimes so that the 'bubbles' are not mixing together/moving around the school at the same time.

Movement around the school will be restricted in order to reduce the risk of contact.

School will be open between 09:00 and 15:00 with teaching between 09:30 and 14:30. We will stagger drop-off and collection times in order to observe social distancing rules. You will be informed of your drop-off and collection time. Only **ONE** adult should accompany the children and **no siblings** please.

Parents/carers should not enter the building or gather at the school gates, doors. It is important that parents/carers adhere to the social distancing markers and the designated route in and out of school.

We will be open from 8 am to 4pm for Key Worker children only.

How will you reduce the risk of infection for my child in school?

We are completing comprehensive risk assessments.

We will be considering if PPE is necessary for staff. However, it will definitely be worn if they are supervising children who are ill/showing symptoms in school, (whilst we wait for parents/carers to collect) or administering first/intimate care.

At this stage, we have not been instructed that children are required to wear PPE. However, should you wish to send your child into school with a mask, you are free to do so. However no gloves are permitted as hand washing is much safer.

Items such as **book bags, school bags and personal items** such as toys, teddies must **not** come into school. **PE kits will remain at home for the children to wear on designated days.**

At break and lunch time, the use of toys (skipping ropes, hoops etc) will be limited. Each 'bubble group' will be provided with their own toys. These toys will be sanitised after each use.

We will be providing a lunch service meal for all children who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) or Universal Meals. Parents/carers may purchase a school lunch for those children not eligible for FSM. Any packed lunches sent in from home must be in a disposable bag and any cutlery must be disposable. All meals will be eaten in the designated classroom areas/'bubble' space.

Frequent hand washing and sanitising of surfaces will take place, (children will be encouraged to help keep their own area clean). The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra will be stressed and bins will be emptied throughout the day. In addition, rigorous cleaning programmes will take place throughout the day and each classroom will be sanitised by a cleaning team at the end of each day. Hand sanitiser will be available in every classroom.

Doors will be propped open, where safe to do so, windows opened and rooms well ventilated. We will be aiming to do as much outdoor learning as possible since being outdoors carries less risk of contact.

Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames will not be accessible because of the difficulty of sharing surfaces and of cleaning.

We encourage you to walk or cycle to school to avoid contact whilst parking.

Will my child have to wear school uniform?

We are recommending school uniform, however it is strongly advised to wash clothes at the end of each school. Therefore, two days each week children will come into school wearing their PE kits, these days will be confirmed later.

Please send your child in to school in clean clothes each day and ensure all clothes are washed at the end of the school day. Coats will be placed on the back of each child's chair.

What children will need to bring to school each day to help to keep them safe?

- *A small bottle of sanitiser*
- *A small packet of tissues*
- *A small bottle of E45 hand lotion (if required)*
- *An inhaler (if required)*
- *A water bottle*

All items must be labelled with your child's name to avoid sharing of items.

What will the children be learning?

Our main focus will be on the children's health and well-being, on helping them transition back to school and preparing them for next stage of their education. In order to be fair to all children, whether attending or not and for consistency, we will be basing lessons on the sequence of online teaching plans which are available on the Seesaw on-line learning platform. All work is planned and set by a teacher.

Many activities we would normally undertake with your child will not be able to happen in the same way. Where we can, adjustments will be made but reducing risk of transmission will be the driving force in all decisions that are made regarding care and curriculum.

Sadly, our Y6 children will not be able to take part in the usual end of primary school activities but our secondary colleagues have offered some transition support.

What if my child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)?

For children with highly complex needs (those who have a current EHCP), some elements of the EHC plan may not be able to be delivered in the normal manner (e.g. we will not be able to provide one-to-one support). We will use our best endeavours to deliver the provision specified in the EHC Plan and will complete a risk assessment (which incorporates parents views) prior to admission.

Will you be offering wraparound care through the Before and After School Clubs?

Due to the implications of adhering to the DFE advice on protecting children and staff, it will **not** be possible for us to offer any Before or Afterschool provision or activity clubs for any children. The Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs will be closed to all children from 1st June or if this date changes, from whenever the school reopens to larger numbers of children. **Key Worker children are permitted to be dropped off at 8:00 and collected at 4:00pm.**

We will be introducing a home/school agreement to make sure that all children attending are aware of the rules and expectations of behaviour. We have to treat the safety of every person in the school building as the highest priority and therefore if a child is not willing or able to follow the rules then their place at school will need to be reviewed.

What if my child becomes unwell?

If anyone has a cough/temperature/feels unwell at school, they will be sent home. They will need to self-isolate for 7 days, or until tested negative. Anyone in the child's household will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

If a child or adult shows symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19, then the whole group that the child/adult was in, must be sent home and they must self-isolate for 14 days.

Staff and children **MUST** not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.

What if my child has a medical condition or if I, or a member of my family, is 'shielding'?

Children or adults who are clinically extremely vulnerable (or 'shielding') or who live with someone who is 'shielding' should NOT attend school.

My child is not in YR, Y1 or Y6. Will they be returning before the end of the school year?

The Government have said that it is their 'ambition' to bring all pupils back in to school before the end of the school year however, this will depend on a number of factors. We will be better able to answer this question in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, all the current online learning resources will continue to be provided. Printed learning packs will continue to be produced should you require this. (Please let us know if there is anything else that would be useful to you). **We are not able to offer siblings a place in other year groups if you have a child in one of the specified year groups.**

My child has been attending because I am a key worker. Can he/she still attend?

Yes – if they are not in Nursery, YR, Y1 or Y6, these children will continue with their current arrangements.

Is it compulsory for my child to attend?

Currently, it is not compulsory for your child to attend and there will be no sanctions for non-attendance. We will endeavour to follow all the guidelines and to take all the precautions we can to keep your child safe should you decide to send your child to school; However, we understand that you will want to make your own decision about what is best for your child under these circumstances and we will support and respect whatever you decide.

How can I contact the school?

The Academy office is open for any enquires or concerns on 01270 814040 from 8:00-4:15.

No parents/carers should attempt to enter the school building.

You can contact admin by email if you wish to discuss any further concerns and a member of the team will call you.

Many thanks again for your continued support throughout this difficult time.

With my warmest regards,

Mrs Pamela Simpson
Principal