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22nd, May 2020

RE: Wider reopening for Reception, year 1 and year 6

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I am sure you are aware from the Prime Minister's speech on the 10th May 2020 and the many news reports, school have been asked to plan for a wider reopening of classes in the primary years so that all pupils in Reception, year 1 and year 6 can attend from Monday, 1st June if their parents think that it is appropriate.

"Children in Reception and year 1 are at the very beginning of their school career and are mastering the essential basics, including counting and the fundamentals of reading and writing, and learning to socialise with their peers. We know that attending early education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and supports children's social and emotional development. Year 6 children are finishing Key Stage 2 and are preparing for the transition to secondary school, and will benefit immensely from time with their friends and teachers to ensure they are ready."

Government Advice

The government guidance on what needs to happen in schools to support a safe reopening can be found at the following website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>.

Who should return?:

Children and young people in Reception, year 1 and year 6 are strongly **encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household)**. If there is a member of your household that is shielding and you would like your child to return to school please contact the school office to discuss this. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time. Vulnerable child of all year groups are encouraged to attend school.

A child our adult would be **considered vulnerable** if they have any of the following conditions:

- have had a solid organ transplant – kidney, liver, pancreas, heart, or lung
- are having treatments for some cancers
- have severe long-term lung disease including cystic fibrosis and **severe asthma**
- have rare diseases that increase their risk of infection
- are on medication that compromises their immune system and so are much more likely to get infections and become seriously unwell from them
- are pregnant with significant heart disease



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The reopening plan:

We have put together a reopening plan that takes into account the advice from the government as well as other from the local authority and our various union colleagues. Our plan specifies that:

- We know that early years and **primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff so instead children will work in smaller 'protective bubbles' throughout the day.**
- This would mean that class sizes would be no larger than 15 children working with a class teacher and a teaching assistant where possible. The group would remain the same throughout the day and they will not mix with other children outside of their group. **In order to maintain these 'protective bubbles' we are only able to operate from 8:45 - 3:15 therefore there will be no breakfast club or after school club facilities including Tea Time Club.**
- The reopening for the various year groups would happen as follows:
Year 6 to begin on Monday, 1st June - 8:45 - 3:15
Year 1 to begin on Wednesday 3rd June - 8:45 - 3:15
Reception to begin on Monday, 8th June - 8:45 - 3:15
- Each child will have their temperature taken using a hand held thermometer each day before entering their classroom to ensure that they are well enough to be in school.
- Each child will have **their own desk space** and appropriate resources including the use of a school laptop/iPad, pen, pencil, ruler, etc.
- Children will have identified zones in the playground and dinner hall to ensure that groups do not mix.
- The stringent hygiene routines would continue including:
 - handwashing using soap and water for a least 20 seconds upon entering the school building, after breaktime, before eating at lunchtime, and after returning from lunch.
 - 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' - children are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze also to put used tissue in the bin immediately after use and wash their hands
 - increased cleaning of contact points such as door handles, stair banisters, etc. throughout the day as well as the daily deep clean of the school at the end of the day including the increased cleaning of any resources that the children have used throughout the day.

However if your child or a member of your household is experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, they should not attend school and should isolate for 14 days:

- **high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)



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- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Anyone in England who is 5 years or older and experiencing the above symptoms can request a test at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

What should you do if you would like your child to return?:

- **If you would like your child to return please contact the school to indicate this by the end of the day on Friday, 22nd May.** We will also be contacting parents who responded to the survey by saying yes they would like their child to return or maybe interested in their child returning.
- Ensure that your child has a water bottle that they can use throughout the day as the school water foundations will be disabled for hygiene purposes.
- Ensure that you are able to have increased washing of your child's uniform to ensure high hygiene standards.
- Only enter the school office if absolutely necessary instead please call or email the school with queries.
- Please respect the two meters social distancing on the playground when speaking to staff and interacting with other parents.
- Follow the school's one way system that indicates what entrance and exit to use to enter and exit the school.

The government is making a final decision as to whether or not the circumstances are correct for the wider reopening of schools at some point during the week beginning 25th May 2020. Additionally, the school governing body will also be meeting next week to consider the risk assessments the school has completed and agree the reopening of the school if it appropriate. If the risk assessments are approved they will be made available on to all parents.

If the school will in fact reopen we will inform you via text/email by Friday 29th May 2020.

I pray that you and your family remain safe and well.

Kind regards,



N Scott
Head Teacher



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