



15 May 2020

Dear Parents

Returning to Nursery

Following my email to you on Monday, we can now provide some more information on how we are planning the return to school from Monday 1 June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Alongside school provision for these year groups, we will continue to provide places for key worker children.

Once we have responses from all parents and can gauge how many would like their children to return to nursery and for which sessions, we will be able to confirm their places. As per government guidelines, we will focus on 3 and 4-year-olds, with Adventurers given initial priority, to help ensure their secure transition to Reception next year.

Speaking to parents and staff over the past couple of days, I know that many people are feeling a mix of relief and some anxiety. We are all relieved that, after so many weeks at home, children will be able to return to school and be with their friends and teachers. I also know that some parents and children will be anxious about returning after such a long time and have on-going concerns about COVID-19.

I hope, therefore, that what is set out below will provide reassurance that how the school will operate when it reopens will ensure everyone is well looked after.

The safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in the school is, of course our highest priority. We will therefore be putting in place the full recommendations that the government scientists have made for 'protective measures' so that the school can be run safely, hygienically and with appropriate social distancing in place.

The government has set out a 'hierarchy of controls' - 5 important areas that schools can act on to significantly reduce the risk of infection. I am sharing some of the key actions we are taking because the government also wants us to communicate our plans to you.

1. Minimising contact with those who have or live with someone with symptoms of COVID 19

We will continue to strictly follow government guidance regarding any staff or children who develop symptoms or become unwell. The government has also set out clear guidance to schools regarding any confirmed cases of COVID 19 and all staff will have had additional training and guidance on this.

2. Increased personal hygiene for children and staff

We had already developed lots of great practice in this area before the lockdown occurred. We reminded the children frequently about the need to wash their hands more often and for at least 20 seconds each time and we had implemented a handwashing schedule at key points in the school day. We will continue this focus on handwashing habits when more children return. In readiness for opening, we have ordered plenty of additional soap and hand gel.

3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene

We have always had a focus on helping all children, particularly the youngest, to use tissues appropriately. We will continue to support children to 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. We will have additional tissues available in classrooms and bins will be emptied more frequently during the school day

4. Increased cleaning of surfaces and equipment

Over the course of the school day, surfaces do and will get touched, for example door handles and sink taps. We are working with staff and our cleaning teams to ensure that such areas are cleaned more often than usual.

We will need to limit children's use of shared equipment. Where we can, we will give individual children their own equipment to use. Where this is not possible, equipment will be cleaned between uses.

5. Re-organising class groups and the school day

The biggest change to school life that we are planning for now is how we can effectively manage the number of children and staff that your children play and learn with.

Class Groupings

To minimise unnecessary contact between groups of children and staff, the children will be organised into small groups and stay within these groups during the day.

Making beginnings and ends of days easier and safer

To avoid large numbers of children and parents gathering at drop off and pick up, we will make some changes to how/when/where children arrive and leave school

The school day

So that everything runs smoothly and safely, we will be making some changes to how we organise the school day to make best use of the space and time we have.

I will be able to provide more details next week about which group your child will be in and the timing of the sessions they can attend.

I hope that what I have outlined in this letter gives you a much better idea of how the school will operate. There is still a lot of work to do but we are all looking forward to welcoming the children back after half term.

I know you may have further questions and I appreciate your patience as we continue to update you over the next couple of weeks.



Mike Gibb
Headteacher