



15 May 2020

Dear Parents

### **Returning to School for Reception, Year 1, and Year 6**

Following my email to you on Monday, we can now provide more information on how we are planning the return to school from Monday 1 June for Reception, Year 1, and Year 6. Alongside school provision for these year groups, we will continue to run our remote learning programme for Years 2 – 5 and provide places for key worker children.

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 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 with or living 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. We will have posters around the school and re-enforce these important messages. 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 (including IT 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.

This also means that the children will need to have their own fully equipped pencil case and water bottle, which will stay in school, to avoid sharing and transporting items between home and school.

#### **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**

In order to make class sizes smaller and minimise unnecessary contact between groups of children and staff Reception will be split into 2 groups, Year 1 will remain in their usual class groups and Year 6 will be split into two groups.

##### **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 arrangements for the start and end of their school day.

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. In the meantime, please do continue to access our remote learning resources and encourage your child with their learning.



Mike Gibb  
Headteacher