

22/05/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Possible extension of school opening to include Reception Y1 and Y6

Thank you for your questionnaire responses earlier in the week. I appreciate that deciding whether or not your child will return to school at this time is an extremely difficult and very personal decision. Every family is in a different situation and has different factors impacting on what they decide to do. Many of you asked for more information about what reopening will look like before you make a decision, so I'll try to provide a little more information here. These plans are not set in stone, and some may change over the course of next week. More specific details will be provided when we have a date for opening. The Trust Board are meeting this afternoon and will provide information on timescales for the wider opening of our schools later today.

The school will undergo a deep clean over the holidays, and new cleaning regimes will be in place throughout the school day on our return. Staff have been in school this week preparing the classrooms. They have removed all soft furnishings and toys and anything else that is hard to clean, or that doesn't need to be in the room. Each child has been allocated a desk space which is 2m away from any other, and on that desk is a box that will contain their books, pencils etc. All the surfaces have been cleared so that they are easy to clean. School does look very different, but staff have still tried to make it as welcoming as possible. Some children might even prefer it!

We are following government guidance very closely. We recognise that social distancing is a difficult concept for children and that it will not be possible to keep our younger children 2m apart at all times, but we will try to ensure that activities encourage them to work independently. The children will be arranged into 'bubbles' of no more than 15 children. The staff and children within those bubbles will not mix with any staff and children from other bubbles at any point during the day, and children will stay in these bubbles for the half term.

Parents and visitors will be discouraged from entering the site and staff will meet children at the lane, where the bus usually picks up and drops off. We do not anticipate using the bus service at first and will confirm details about this at a later date. Only one parent should bring their child, and where possible, siblings should remain at home. We may slightly stagger start and finish times to ensure parents don't gather outside school. Children will be asked not to bring things backwards and forwards between home and school and will not bring their reading books home. They will keep their water bottle on site which will be washed daily. We would encourage all children to have school dinners. If they bring a packed lunch it needs to be in a disposable bag, which will be discarded along with all contents at the end of lunch time.

Whilst we will try to maintain our high standards of school uniform, it is anticipated that parents will wash children's clothes each night, we will therefore be more flexible than usual as you may not have enough clothes to manage this! We would like children to wear trainers if possible as they will be doing lots of outdoor activities. They will not need to bring PE kits to school.

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Until the summer holidays the staff across the four schools will continue to plan together and the children who are in school will follow the same curriculum as those that are at still learning at home. Staff will continue to message pupils from other year groups on Class Dojo. Yesterday the Government published guidance for parents of children learning at home which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Sadly, our Year 6 pupils will not be able to take part in the normal end of year activities and we are looking for safe alternatives. Their transition to secondary school will also be different. We will work closely with the secondary schools and will do our best to support pupils through this challenging time.

When the children return to school we know that they will need lots of support to settle in to the new school rules and routines and our afternoon activities will have a big focus on well-being. The best way that parents can help them to prepare after such a long time away is to make sure they get into a routine of getting up at a reasonable time and not going to bed too late.

I hope this information helps with your decision making. We will send information about return dates for Years 2,3,4 and 5 when the Government gives us more information. I wish you a very happy half term, and look forward to being able to share more detailed plans with you before the children come back.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Helen Dudman
Executive Headteacher