



St Mary's C of E school

LEARNING WITH HOPE

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Head teacher: Mrs Hilary Tyreman

22.05.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are keeping well. Thank you to all parents and carers who responded to our initial letter last week regarding the wider opening of schools. We understand that many of you were undecided at that point and needed further information. After reading the available guidance, working with staff and governors we are now in a position to share our plans with you. Our key priority in planning is the safety of your child, staff and the wider community.

A key message to school leaders and Governors has been flexibility. This is not about every school opening on 1st June and looking the same. Each school has its own different numbers of children, staffing issues and space restrictions.

Our plan is based on all those factors and reflects what we are able to offer putting health and safety at the forefront of our decision making.

How will we keep your child safe?

We have carried out an extensive and thorough risk assessment. Below is a summary of the measures we can control to make the school as safe as possible.

We need you to work with us on these measures as the safety of the children and staff coming back to school is a collective responsibility.

- We will be checking with you each day if your child is well. No child will be allowed to attend schools if they are displaying **any** symptoms of **any** illness.
- We will also be asking you if anyone you live with is displaying symptoms and your child will not be able to attend the setting if this is the case.
- We will be washing hands at the start of the day, before and after playtimes, before and after any snacks and at the end of the day. We will also be asking children to wash hands after they have coughed or sneezed.
- PPE will be worn by staff if a child develops symptoms of CoVid 19 while attending the setting and also for cleaning the isolation area after the child leaves.
- If your child wears a mask to school then this **must** be removed and disposed of on entry to school. If you require your child to wear a mask while in school these must be provided by you in a zipped bag.
- All spaces used will have double lined lidded bins for tissues.



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- All visitors **MUST** wash hands with hand sanitiser before entering the school and also wash hands on leaving.
- Parents **MUST NOT** enter the school building. Please email or phone with any queries. The office **CANNOT** deal with face to face queries during this time.
- Social distancing measures will be put into place with desks set out 2m apart. All children will have their own set of equipment to use. In EYFS we will be limiting resources put out and these will only be used in that bubble.

However, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff at all times. In deciding to send your children to school you must take this into account.

- All toys, surfaces and tables will be thoroughly cleaned each day.
- Toilets – these will be cleaned regularly throughout the morning. Older children will have dedicated times to go to the toilet so we can manage this effectively.
- **We will only be opening for half days at first** (apart from key worker and vulnerable groups). This is so we have time to thoroughly clean each space.
- We will, of course, inform you if any child or member of staff develops symptoms, tests positive to Covid 19 and the resulting action we would need to take.

Shielded groups

If your child is in a shielded group or living in a household with a shielded person then you **MUST** let us know immediately. We will not be expecting these children to return to school.

Organising opening the school to wider groups of children

We have organised the school into family 'bubbles'. Thinking of it in this way has helped us to plan and also I hope will help you understand the principle we have used when planning the provision.

We are proceeding with extreme caution and will have a phased approach to opening to wider groups of pupils. We will be staggering the time of the start and end to the school day for different groups to avoid contact and staggering all break times. We will be only offering half days to start with. Our reason for doing this is to ensure we can deep clean spaces each day and also to be mindful of children and staff adjusting to the new way of working. There will be new rules to observe, a new style of teaching to get used to and our varied experiences of being in lockdown and coming out of this. We need to look after the wellbeing of all of us as we slowly ease ourselves back into this 'new normal'.

This will be reviewed on Thursday 11th June or earlier for the following two weeks.



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What will the provision look like?

Key workers and vulnerable children – this will continue but no provision on Monday 1st June.

We will continue to provide provision for key worker children and vulnerable groups in the same way as we have done since 25th March. The list of key workers has NOT changed but if you find you are now in this group and need child care, **please contact the school as soon as possible with proof of employment and dates and days you need your child to attend from Tuesday 2nd June.**

Provision for key worker and vulnerable group children will continue to be from 8:50 – 3:15 each day.

The children in this 'bubble' will be working in Class 4. Children will use the main playground with staggered breaks from any other group using this space.

Arriving at school

All children MUST stay with parents and line up at the designated areas in the playground before coming into school. Please do not arrive earlier. We will not be having a member of staff on duty before the start of school. We will not be opening the door to the playground until 8:50am

Collecting from school

At the end of the session (3:15pm) we will be dismissing children from the playground. We need ALL children to be met by an adult.

There will be signs on the playground telling you where to wait and parents MUST observe social distancing.

Year 6 - The school will be open for Year 6 from Tuesday 2nd June

We have set up two bubbles for year 6. We have planned for the maximum number of children returning. This splits the class into smaller groups. Initially for the first two weeks we are able to offer provision on 3 days for group A, 2 days for group B. On the second week we are able to offer 3 days for group B and two days for group A. Depending on demand we will have either one or two groups.

Provision for Year 6 children will be from 9:00am until 12:30am each day.

The children will be working in Class 6 and the hall, Children will use the main playground with staggered breaks from any other group using this space.

Arriving at school

All Year 6 children MUST stay with parents and line up at the designated areas in the playground before coming into school. Please do not arrive earlier. We will not be having a member of staff on duty before the start of school. We will not be opening the door to the playground for Year 6 children until 9:00am.



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Collection from school

At the end of the session we will be dismissing children from the playground. Year 6 children will leave a 12:30pm for the first two weeks. We need ALL children to be met by an adult.

There will be signs on the playground telling you where to wait and parents MUST observe social distancing.

Year 1 - The school will be open for Year 1 from Monday 8th June

We will have one 'bubble' for year 1 children

Provision for Year 1 children will be from 8:50 am until 12:45pm each day.

The Year 1 children will be working in Class 2. The children will use the playground at the front of the school.

Arriving at school

Please come into school using the main gate and then go left into the space at the front of the school. Class 1 children will be using the infant door to come into school and to leave from.

Please do not arrive earlier. We will not be having a member of staff on duty before the start of school. We will not be opening the infant door until 8:45.

Collection from school

Year 1 children will leave at 12:45am. Please collect your child from the infant door at the front of school. Please observe the markings for waiting and maintaining social distancing.

There will be signs on the railings to show you where to stand.

EYFS (pre-school and reception class) The school will be open for EYFS children from Monday 8th June.

For the purpose of planning for this 'bubble' we have put our pre school and EYFS together. We have planned to have 3 groups of 15 children. Depending on the demand we may be able to only offer one day in 3 or if we have 15 or less children take up places, then we will be offering every day to that group. Two groups would be the same model as for Year 6, 3 days one week, two days the next.

Arriving at school

Please come into school using the big gate to the EYFS outside area. EYFS Children will be going into school through the reception door only. We will have signs on the playground ground showing you where to wait until we can admit your child into school.

Your child MUST stay with you while you are waiting. Please do not arrive earlier. We will not be having a member of staff on duty before the start of school. We will not be opening the big gate into the playground until 8:40am. A member of EYFS staff will be there to meet and greet you and your child.



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Collection from school

EYFS children will leave at 1pm from the EYFS outside area. We will open the gate at 1pm. There will be signs on the playground to show you where to wait until we hand over your child to you.

Free school Meals

For the first two weeks we will not be having lunch in school. After this we have arranged with Chartwells, our meal provider, to provide packed lunches only. This reduces risks quite considerably.

All EYFS and Year 1 children can collect a packed lunch from school to take home

All FSM children in other Year groups can collect a packed lunch from school to take home.

All FSM children NOT attending school will continue to have a weekly food package provided for them for collection or delivery as we have been doing for the past 9 weeks.

What will the learning in school look like?

We have discussed this and are working to a set of agreed principles. Please see our website for more information. There are no specific curriculum requirements that the DFE has announced, so we are planning activities that use the outdoors wherever possible. We will be doing purposeful learning with opportunities for lots of talk and ensuring that your child's wellbeing and safety is at the heart of what we do. We can take the children to the school field and even the beach provided we risk assess and can adhere to social distancing.

What does my child need to know?

School will be different from what your child has known so far. We have needed to rearrange the classrooms, reduce the amount of furniture and clear away items such as comfy chairs and book areas. We will need to keep in our 'bubble' groups.

EYFS

In EYFS the children will have limited resources to use that are cleaned every day.

Equipment

In Year 1 and Year 6, the children will have their own pencils etc in a plastic bag on their table.

We will have a selection of books out each day and then these will be put away and rotated with other books.

Uniform

We are expecting all the children to wear uniform. However, if your child has grown out of uniform and you have not been able to replace it then please wear something suitable for everyday in school. Please make sure that this is washed daily.

Helping your child settle back into school

We are hoping to make a short video of what the school will look like to prepare for your child coming back into school. We will make this available during half term.



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Attendance

The decision to send your child back to school is yours. Attendance is not compulsory for any year group. If you choose not to send your child into school at this point there will not be any attendance issues.

If you do take up a place and for some reason your child does not attend then please phone the office as you usually would do to report an absence.

Home Learning after half term

With increasing demands on staff to help staff the provision in school after half term we will be using more externally prepared materials for school such as Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize. We will not be setting home learning for children in the target year groups where there is provision in school but will direct you towards appropriate resources for your child.

What you now need to do

With the information you now have we need you to decide and tell us if your child will be attending school after half term.

We need this information by 10:00am on Friday 29th May.

We CANNOT accept more children into this group once they have started to attend. The next window for your child returning or school will be from Monday 15th June. We will need you to tell us by Thursday 11th June if you wish your child to attend school from Monday 15th June.

As I stated earlier, we have risk assessed what we can control within our school grounds. If this is to be successful then we need your support to adhere to our guidelines. We also need ALL parents and carers to be following the government guidance as well. This is our joint responsibility for the whole school community.

We will be reviewing our provision every two weeks in the Summer term or more frequently as a response to government guidance.

We are looking forward to opening the school again but need our approach to be cautious, safe, phased and controlled. We hope you will support the school in our plan to achieve this.

Please let us know your plans for your child's return to school, we will be phoning around next week to finalise numbers. Although this long letter has covered a lot, I am very aware it has not covered everything, and you may have questions. If there is *anything* you are worried about concerning your child's return to school, then please do contact either your child's class teacher or me. Nothing is too small in these unprecedented and challenging times.

Please be aware that these plans could change following an announcement from the Government and the Government's next review on Thursday 28th May. We will, of course, inform you as soon as possible if we need to review our plans following any announcements.



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Finally, thank you for your continuing support of home learning. Your response to home learning has been amazing and your comments have been very supportive of our hardworking teachers. We really appreciate this. We will be sharing a celebratory newsletter with you next week to showcase some of the children's work produced during home learning.

We wish you a safe half term and look forward to continued working together with you during this time.

Keep safe and stay well,

Kindest regards,

Hilary Tyreman Head teacher

Jeff Davis, Chair of Governors

Please respond to the following question by Friday 29th May. If you have already responded then you do not need to fill this in again unless your answer has changed with the information set out above.

Are you planning to send your child back to school from Tuesday 2nd June (year 6) or Monday 8th June (preschool, reception and Year 1)

Yes ☐

No ☐

If you have answered no what are your concerns?

Signed _____

Parent/carers of _____ **in class** _____



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