

15 May 2020

Headteacher: Mr Paul Henery

Phased re-opening of school

As you know, the government has asked schools to welcome back pupils from June 1st (at the earliest), starting with pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The small group of critical worker pupils who are currently attending school will continue to do so as we move into this next proposed phase, infection rates permitting.

As a school we have been working hard to ensure that we have plans in place to increase the number of pupils attending, making sure that the safety of pupils, staff and families will remain paramount throughout.

Over the course of this week, the school has been undertaking rigorous risk assessments in order to be able to have smaller groups of pupils being taught from these year groups, with a wide range of protective measures in place to reduce risk.

To enable us to go forward with our plan, we really need to know how many pupils would be likely to be in school from these year groups. Once we have a better idea of numbers, we will be able to share with you the details and give those parents much more information about what to expect, and what measures will be in place.

We want to start in a staggered way, with Year 6 pupils returning the week beginning 1st June, followed by children in Reception and Year 1. The exact way in which this will be done will depend on how many children will be returning to school, but we would not expect to have more than 10 pupils in any teaching group, for social distancing reasons. This may also have to be on a part time basis.

I know all of our staff will do their utmost to make the learning experience a nurturing and positive one, but we want you to know that school life will not look the same next half term:

- social distancing at all times, as far as is possible (though the government recognises that 'unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.')
- no mixing between the year groups during the school day
- staggered break and lunchtimes
- staggered entry and exit routines for pupils and parents
- limited choices of some activities due to safety restrictions

We can reassure you at this point that there is no pressure from us for your child to attend school and we know that every situation is different; no-one will be penalised by the local authority if their child does not take up a place to return to school.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, please could you complete the questionnaire - sent separately - by Monday so that we can finalise our plan, which will then be discussed with governors and shared with you next week (along with the school's safety measures, risk assessments and additional guidelines).

If you have any questions, or would like to talk through any of the issues, please do not hesitate to do so. These are uncharted times of great uncertainty for us all, and we really do want to be able to hear from you, listen to your views and share our own thoughts.

For all pupils not attending school, home learning will be carrying on as it is now, though there may be some minor changes in home school learning approaches for Reception, Year 1 and 6.

Reception news

I am very pleased to let you know that one of longest serving and experienced teachers, Mrs Fiona Scott, will be teaching our Reception class full time from September. Mrs Scott is a very experienced Early Years practitioner who has, until recently, been working in Early Years at our school as well as at another nearby setting (doing both jobs part time). She will be introducing herself to parents of those children we expect to start with us in September, and organising transition arrangements (as best we can) prior to September. Miss Turner has done a brilliant job of stepping into Mrs Welch's shoes midway through the year and will continue to teach Reception until the end of the academic year, when her fixed contract comes to an end. We wish her all the very best in seeking a new teaching post for September.

Half term

We shall be closed over half term, along with the other schools in our cluster. If any critical worker pupils need a school place over half term, please do contact us directly so that we can put you in touch with our cluster education adviser, for alternative arrangements over half term.

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