

Friday, 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As the government has now declared that it will not be announcing whether it is safe for schools to re-open more widely until the 28th May, we will not be re-opening to additional pupils until at the earliest the 4th June. We are going to do a phased return and will be opening more widely to a year group at a time, this will be confirmed once we have the government guidance that it is safe to open more widely.

We have reorganised furniture in all classes to optimise space and to allow a table to be set up for the children when they do return. We are in the process of confirming staffing levels.

As you can imagine, the health and safety requirements in making the changes required for a safe return for both pupils and staff are taking time.

Attendance at this point is optional and there will be no penalties for parents who decide not to send their children to school. If you are able to continue to home school your child, at this point in time this is our preferred option. We cannot accept siblings from any other year groups. If your child does not attend school, they will be expected to continue to complete work set for them by the teacher.

Our proposed plan is the one we are looking at moving forward with. Each class will be split into 2 groups, Bubble A and Bubble B. This model will enable growth in these groups should parents reconsider at a later date, to send their child to school, if it is safe to increase the numbers of the group size.

Bubble A will be allocated Monday and Tuesday each week to attend school and Bubble B will be allocated Thursday and Friday each week. Some keyworker children will be allocated to both bubbles. Cleaning between groups and during the day will be completed regularly and checked daily.

Only keyworker children will be able to attend school on a Wednesday, this will be Bubble C. They will be allocated into their own keyworker year group bubbles. Wednesday will be used for staff planning and communication where necessary, with pupils who are not attending in either of these bubbles. **You will receive a text message in the next 5 days to confirm what Bubble your child has been allocated to (this is not negotiable).**

How it will be different for pupils;

- Pupils will remain in their bubble, at all times, this is so that the children only come into contact with a small group of people every time that they are in school. This means that;
 - There will be staggered break and lunch time so pupils can access outside space with their bubble
 - Pupils will be encouraged to maintain social distancing, however with 4 and 5 year olds this will undoubtedly prove problematic

- Staff / cleaners will have to regularly clean surfaces throughout the day to lower infection risk. To help with this;
 - Children will only be allowed to bring a healthy snack, their lunch and a water bottle to school, their belongings will stay with them all day and children will be encouraged not to touch each other's belongings. Children **will not be permitted** to bring any other bags or items into school from home. If you have a fabric lunch bag, this should be washed every day on a 60 degree wash.

Throughout the day there will be regular opportunities for handwashing and/or using anti-bacterial gel, the least expectations will be;

- On entry to school
- If the person coughs or sneezes
- Before and after eating
- Before and after going outside
- After going to the toilet
- Before leaving school

We would expect **all children** in school to wear school uniform, however we are also aware that some pupils may have grown out of certain items so our expectations will be relaxed during this period, however I would encourage that you try to send your child in uniform or a very close substitute as this will give them a security and sense of belonging and normality being back in the school. The school PE kit uniform would also be acceptable. The government advice is that clothing is washed after every wear on a 60 degree hot wash. Keyworker children will not need to wear uniform on a Wednesday to enable their uniform to be laundered.

Lunchtimes will be different to what children are used to;

- Children will have to remain in their classrooms to eat their lunch with their bubble
- They will be allocated with a 20 minute slot to access the outside space with their bubble during the lunch period
- Fresh start will contact parents directly with instructions for ordering lunches
- If having a fresh start lunch the lunchtime supervisor will collect the pupils lunches from the pod and deliver them to the classroom bubble
- Teachers will have a lunchbreak and a lunchtime supervisor or teaching assistant will be allocated to the bubble group

If a child or any adult within their bubble shows signs of Covid 19, as per government guidelines, that group will be informed and will be instructed that they will have to self-isolate for 14 days, therefore both A & B groups would close for the 14 day period due to staff not being available.

Please see the attached timetable for the times of the day and please note what times your child's class drop off and pick up times are.

If you are late for your drop off time, you will not be permitted entry until after 9:45am once the last group has entered the site safely, this will be through the school office, where you will be expected to wait outside of the building, socially distancing, until a staff member signs your child in.

These allocated times and days are non-negotiable as we are having to consider the longer term impact of opening the school more widely.

Timetable			
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Entry	8:50	9:10	9:30
Exit	14:50	15:10	15:30
Group membership	1	2	3
	Ashton	Holcot	Orton
	Ashby	Grange	Brampton
	Blenheim	Barnwell	Westminster
Playground rota (Years R, 1 & 6)	EYFS – EYFS playground Year 1 KS1 playground Year 6 play zone playground or KS2 field		
Playground rota (Key Workers)	4/5 bubble on KS2 playground 2/3 EYFS grass area by 5 Wells		

Pupil and staff safety is paramount to the phased return of pupils to our school and of course we all miss the children terribly and want school to return to normal as quickly as possible. However, we want to be clear, that this reopening will not be 'normal' and you need to be aware of that. I will not be asking any staff member who does not feel safe with larger groups, to extend the size of their group. Therefore we will be constantly reviewing the situation that we find ourselves in and may make changes accordingly.

I am aware that returning to work is a priority for many of you, I am aware that this will not provide a solution for all of you, but for now, this is what we believe is the safest and right way forward for all children and staff in our school. I hope that you understand our decisions and that you continue to support us in providing an education for all of our children, whether they attend school or not.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Anne Ansell
Head teacher