

19.5.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have received a letter on Friday about the school reopening on 8th June. Since then, I have been working closely with our team to start to put together a clear and structured plan. We are really looking forward to seeing the children back in school and can't wait to welcome them back to class. Thank you for the questions you have sent in to the office over the last week. I have answered as many of them as possible below.

1. When will the school reopen and for who?

School will reopen on Monday 8th June. In the first few weeks, the only year groups will be Year 1 and Year 6. This is the same for all school in WeST.

2. What days will those year groups come to school?

Year 6 will be in on Mondays and Tuesdays. Year 1 will be in on Thursdays and Fridays. This gives us the time to ensure that the school is properly cleaned and home learning can still be supported.

3. My child is in Year 1 or Year 6. Do they have to come back to school?

Families can decide if they wish to send their child back to school. We understand that some families will be shielding vulnerable people or may prefer not to send their child back to school yet. We will not be sending home attendance letters if you have decided not to send your child back to school.

4. How will the school organise the day?

At present, we are still putting together a more detailed plan for reopening. When we reopen, you can expect to see:

- staggered drop offs and pick ups
- a one way system for the school gates
- staggered lunchtimes and break times for the children

More information will follow in the week after half term.

5. What is happening with Educare?

Educare will move from Ashburton back to Buckfastleigh Primary School from Monday 1st June. A letter will be going out about this at the end of the week. Educare will continue to be available for children of key workers and vulnerable children all week at Buckfastleigh Primary School even when Year 1 and Year 6 are in school.

6. Will the school be doing extra cleaning?

Yes, rooms will be thoroughly cleaned each day. Communal toilets will be cleaned more than once a day. Rooms that are not being used will not be accessible once cleaned.

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7. Who will be teaching my child?

Year 1 and Year 6 will be split into two groups so that there are no more than 15 children in a classroom. A familiar teacher will teach each group but it may not be your child's usual class teacher. Teaching assistants will support in class as needed.

8. Will my child be with their friends?

Yes. When we split the children into two groups, we will do this with their friendships in mind. Once in their groups, there will be no shared learning, play or eating between groups. This keeps the adults and children in a 'bubble' so they only have contact with the same individuals when they are at school.

9. What should my child wear to school?

Children will not need to wear school uniform.

10. Will my child get a school dinner?

Yes, our school kitchen will be open for hot school dinners or children can bring a packed lunch.

11. Will Free School Meal vouchers continue?

Yes, Free School Meal vouchers will continue whether your child is in school or not.

12. What is happening with home learning?

Home learning will continue for all year groups. Children in Year 1 or 6 who do not come to school will still get home learning. However, there will be adjustments to how often teachers are communicating online for children in those classes.

13. Will there be Breakfast and After-School Club?

No, Breakfast and After-School Club will not be operating until at least September.

14. Will other year groups be going back to school before the Summer holiday?

Yes, we are expecting other year groups to start back at school before the Summer holidays. At present, we don't know the exact start dates for this. The school will keep all parents up to date with information on this as it changes.

I hope that this provides you with a clearer understanding for the school reopening. Should you have further questions, please email them through to Kirsty and I will aim to send out an update with further information before half term. Thank you as always for your continued support and understanding. I hope you and your family remain safe at this time.

Kind regards

Eddie Brown

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