

3.6.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. Following my initial letter on Monday, I will now share the next tranche of information regarding the partial re-opening of school. This will enable you to develop an understanding about how school will be organised including staffing, classroom layouts, breaktimes, hygiene, toileting and the curriculum.

## Parent Re-opening Guide – Part 2

### Supporting Social Distancing

- We will do our very best to support distancing, with both children and adults in school. DfE guidance states...  
*'We know 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. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.'*
- Therefore, we will do everything we can to promote and implement plans to support each child's understanding and maximise social distancing within each Pod. Children will only be able to socialise with children in their own Pod, even at playtime.
- Parents need to know that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is unavoidable and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do and use this to inform their decision making.

### Start and End of Day

- All families and children must arrive on site via the top gate on New Road.
- To support transition from home to school and managing infection measures, the children will need to wash their hands just before leaving home and again when they arrive in school.
- Please make sure children do not walk to or from school with friends or families from other Pods.
- Staggered drop off times will help reduce contact between different groups. Please keep to these times. If you have children attending two different pods, please arrive at the later time.
  - Years 1 and 6 – 8:35-8:45
  - Educare – 8:50-9:00
- Advice is that there should not be any gathering at the school gates to talk to other parents.
- Where possible, please can only **one parent drop their child off at school**.
- There will be hand sanitising stations at each entrance into the school building so that all pupils arriving to school can sanitise their hands.
- On entering the school site, parents should say goodbye to their child who will then walk around to the entrance door for of their Pod where they will be welcomed by their Pod leader.
- Teachers will be by the entrance to their Pod to welcome the children.

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- A member of SLT will also be present at the entrance to school to direct parents and children, answering any questions you may have.
- Please leave the school site down the steps at the school main exit at the front of school.
- At pick up, parents should wait in the designated waiting area for the Pod their child is in. **Information about this will go out to specific year groups on Friday.**
  - Educare – 3:00pm
  - Years 1 and 6 – 3:20pm

These times are varied to avoid a build-up of people on the school site.

- At the end of the day, the Pod leader will lead the children out of their class door and wait for parents to pick them up.
- Parents are asked to arrive in the allotted time slot to avoid late picks ups.
- Children on the walk alone register can walk home using social distancing.
- Please talk to your child about social distancing if they walk with friends and to avoid congregating in groups before getting to school.

## Uniform and daily items

- There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in school. The children will not be expected to wear school uniform.
- Traditional PE lessons will not take place, therefore your child doesn't need a PE kit in school.
- In their class Pods, the children may take part in simple exercise sessions, i.e. Joe Wickes, so consider wearing clothes that are appropriate for this.
- The children will need to wear a clean set of clothes each day they attend school.
- Each day your child will need a named water bottle, washed and prefilled with water.
- Packed lunch is required from home if your child is not having a school dinner. Children with a packed lunch may bring a second water bottle with squash/juice if they prefer a lunchtime drink other than water.
- Your child may bring in a healthy snack for morning break, that they can open on their own – fruit, cheese or vegetables only.
- Please consider the weather with regard to your child wearing a sun hat or bringing sun cream
- No other toys or personal items are to be brought into school.

## Staffing

- All staff returning to work have completed a self-risk assessment
- Staff have been assigned to a 'Pod' of up to 15 children and will only work with one group of pupils on timetabled days.
- It will be the responsibility of the year group teachers to plan the lessons in school – therefore, the children will be receiving age appropriate lessons and consistency between Pods. This will link where possible with Home Learning.
- Depending on availability of teachers, teaching assistants can lead Pod working under the direction of a teacher
- There will be a Safeguarding Leader on duty each day.

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## Children using equipment

- Children will need to use the same: chair/table/stationery
- All of these items will be provided by school.
- Children are asked not to bring individual pencil cases.
- Usual school books will be used for children to do their work.
- The use of self-marking will be encouraged as much as possible for older children, but staff will need to handle children's books for some marking.

## Class Pods (Bubbles)

- The government guidance is a maximum number of children of 15 can be in a class at a time.
- The year group cohort will be split into two 'Pods' by the class teacher
- Wherever possible children will be consistently taught by the same staff members in order to reduce 'contact' points. This may mean that your child may not be placed with their current teacher or based in their current classroom.
- Due to staff availability some Pods maybe managed by Teaching Assistants. However, teachers will oversee the work delivered for all age groups.
- Any movement from classrooms to outside areas for playtimes/lunchtimes/outdoors learning will be done following social distancing.
- No unsupervised movement around the school will be allowed for pupils.
- Children will eat their lunches either in their classrooms or their assigned outdoor area.
- Water fountains will not be switched on. Children will need to re-fill their bottles in the classroom. The bottles must be taken home daily and washed.
- There will be no collective assemblies in the hall.
- Classrooms will be kept well ventilated, classroom door and windows open if possible for air flow.

## Home Learning

- When the pupils attending school are back at home, home learning will be provided for these days, following a similar format to what is being used currently.
- For year groups who are not yet back in school, online learning will continue in its current form, with a sharper focus on honing core subject skills in English and Maths.

## The Classroom Layout

- Classrooms have been redesigned in order to promote safe practice and tables arranged separately.
- The tables have been spaced as far apart as possible, to fit as best as possible the size and shape of the room.
- All unnecessary equipment/desks/other furniture have been moved out and temporarily stored elsewhere.
- We recognise that younger children cannot be expected to remain at a table for lengthy periods of time and so this may be managed by reducing group size further.
- There will be a reduction in the number and nature of resources – particularly play-based resources – for younger children. This will support regular cleaning at the end of the day.
- Soft furnishings will not be used.

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## Curriculum

- The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and may have experienced loss on a number of different levels. This shouldn't be ignored. However, we also know that children like routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established and when children are ready, we will continue teaching lessons as normal.
- We plan to make use of our outdoor learning environment as much as possible.
- We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed. We are currently working hard to ensure that children, who are remaining at home, get access to similar content on Class Dojo.
- We will focus on settling the children, and providing opportunities for them to talk, opportunities to focus on mental well-being and staying safe.
- Staff will ensure additional support and reassurance, and will be available to pick up on any issues or problems that may arise.
- We will consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.
- Routines and advice will be embedded sensitively and age appropriately, such as:
  - School day timetable
  - Social distancing and sharing rhymes to help them walking in their Pod line
  - Social distancing routines in class and outdoors
  - Use of a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
  - Importance of toilet flushing and the designated toilets each Pod can use
  - To reduce possible contact between different groups of children, and between adults, a one way walking circulation will be used in corridors at any given time
  - Posters displayed around the school as a helpful reminder of social distancing
- Government advice on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. We will be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach where we can timetable and take turns to use the space safely.
- All previously planned gatherings (Y6 Leavers' Assembly, Sports Days, summer fair, etc.) will not take place.
- We cannot say that some resources will not be handled by more than one child, especially in the Reception Class. We have spent nearly half a year teaching our youngest children that sharing is good! Children will be encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene, and we will rota equipment.
- There are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

Once again I would like to thank all families for your cooperation and support of the school during this challenging time. Whilst we know that home schooling in itself presents problems, we are so impressed with how this has been handled. We have loved seeing all the work you have shared via Class Dojo and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Take care and stay safe,

Eddie Brown

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