

1.6.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely half term and enjoyed the fabulous weather we have been having. It has been brilliant to welcome the Educare children back to Buckfastleigh today after such a long time off site.

I am writing this letter to give you some more information about school opening and share an approximate timeline for the coming weeks. This way you will have a better idea about what will be happening with the school reopening. There is a lot of information to share so I will be sending it out bit by bit this week.

Date	What
Monday 1st June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter 1: Information to families with timeline for the coming weeks • Surveys to go out to families of children in Year 6 and Year 1
Wednesday 3rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter 2: Information to families about how school will be organised including staffing, classroom layouts, breaktimes, hygiene, toileting and the curriculum.
Friday 5th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter 3: School arrival and pick up information for families as well as behaviour and conduct expectations for children in school. • Information for families with children in Years 1 and 6 with specific information about their child starting school the following week.

I would like to emphasise that the safety of the children, families and staff remains of paramount importance when planning for the phased reopening of school. A Risk Assessment, as directed by the Department of Education, has been completed working closely with the Trust. I would like to stress our plans are based upon thorough planning to determine our capacity to implement protective measures outlined by the Government for schools. This process is being carried out by schools both locally and national, whilst our individual plan may eventually differ slightly, it is based upon local circumstances, and we are working closely with all the other Trust primary schools. Individual school circumstances are different - numbers in year groups, staff available to work, etc. so you may hear of slightly different plans in another local school.

Being mindful of everyone's individual circumstances we highlight that children who are clinically extremely vulnerable **should not** attend school. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should only attend schools if strict social distancing can be maintained. A list of these conditions is on the government website.

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We look forward to welcoming Year 1 and Year 6, alongside Educare on the 8th June and gradually in a phased return the rest of the year groups. Despite many changes, we aim to ensure that the children feel calm, happy and supported. Information shared over the course of this week is to be supportive in answering the numerous questions you will have regarding the practical measures we have taken.

The coronavirus outbreak will have had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing for some children. It is important to recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important, we will need to consider how to support some children who have found the long period at home hard to manage. Please let us know if your child has anxieties around the virus or experienced bereavement so we can support you.

I appreciate that making a decision about your child returning to school may be difficult for you. The information I will be providing over the course of this week is to offer reassurance rather than cause anxiety. It should be remembered that risk cannot be entirely removed and so it is for parents to come to their own decision based upon the information that we are providing.

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

Parent Reopening Guide – Part 1

Week Beginning 1st June

- **School is open for Educare Monday - Friday**
- Educare will continue as it has been (available to key worker and vulnerable children only if there is not an adult at home to look after them.)
- Online learning will continue in its current form.
- Class teachers are communicating with your child via Class Dojo and phone calls.
- Please note that when teachers are in school, they will not be available to support home learning on Class Dojo. Specific days have been set aside during each week when they are available and they will let you know when that is.
- The SENDCo is communicating with some families weekly by phone consultation.
- If you would appreciate a phone call from your class teacher let them know by messaging them on Class Dojo.
- Wednesday 3rd June will be staff training in the morning – this is to allow us to fully brief all of our staff.
- During half term and through this week, the classrooms are being set up to maximise social distancing.
- Staff will attend school on a rota basis to prepare class resources

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Week Beginning 8th June

- **School is open for Educare Monday – Friday**
- **School is open for Year 6 Monday and Tuesday**
- **School is open for Year 1 Thursday and Friday**
- Children in Years 1 and 6 who need to attend Educare are still able to do this.

Communicating with school

- We will need to reduce the number of people on the school site to support social distancing.
- Parents will only be able to access the school building when strictly necessary.
- The office is only open for important messages from parents who are on site to drop off or pick up their children. Strictly one person only in the foyer. All other communications with the office will need to be via email or phone.
- Staff will communicate with parents via phone calls and Class Dojo.
- Staff will be available to greet the children and any daily messages can be passed to them.

Wraparound Care and Clubs

- At this time, it is not possible for us to provide either Breakfast or After School Club. We will let families know when these can start back up.
- Clubs will not be running this term.

Attendance

- All children in the selected year groups are encouraged to attend unless self-isolating or shielding.
- DfE guidance states that eligible children should be strongly encouraged to attend school for social, emotional and educational reasons. However, they also clearly state that schools and families are not accountable for attendance during this period.
- If you have said your child is attending school and you change your mind, please ring the office by 9:30am.
- No one with symptoms should attend for any reason.

Return of other year groups

- The government ambition is for all primary children to return for a month before the summer.
- This position will be kept under review, and further advice will be provided as and when needed.
- We are hopeful that EYFS children will be able to return to school week beginning 15th June.
- Reception will be split into two groups. Half the children will attend on Monday and Tuesday and the other group will attend on Thursday and Friday.
- Information will go out to Reception families next week.
- We will keep you informed about when other year groups will be able to come back into school.

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