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Headteacher: Ian Taylor

## **Important Information**

### **It is critical that you read this letter carefully**

Dear parents,

Although the government announcement about schools re-opening was nearly two weeks ago, the guidance on how to do this safely followed much later. The guidance has changed regularly and it is going to take time to put all the necessary health and safety measures in place to re-open safely and it is not as simple as just opening the school to eligible year groups based on how the school operated before the closure.

The senior team have been in school assessing the building and considering the guidance in relation to the phased return in June. Whilst we would love to see as many eligible pupils return, our priority has to be the safety of pupils, staff and parents. **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** will be the first day of the phased return for critical worker families.

We have outlined our plans for staggered opening on page 2. However, these plans and timescales could change if current council and government advice changes, if there is a spike in confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Binley and Willenhall area, if we do not have sufficient staff or if any staff members or children contract Covid-19.

When children return to school, they will not be returning to the environment and routines they knew before the school closure.

It is important that parents know that we have higher than average numbers of children returning to school. This puts limitations on logistics. **It is critical for Year 6 parents to understand** that children will not be able to socialise in the same way they did before. Unfortunately, in-line with health and safety advice, children will remain in their assigned group for the duration of the rest of the year, these groups cannot change. We will not be able to carry out usual end of year activities such as trips, leavers discos, leavers assemblies and residential visits. When children return to school they will be following a structured timetable within their allocated 'bubble' and there will be strict social distancing measures in place at all times in line with council and government guidance.

#### **Very Important**

School will be closed on **Wednesday and Friday every week from 1230** to allow for deep cleaning of the main buildings. Children in Y6, Y1 and Reception must be collected by 1230 on Wednesdays and Fridays. School will be closed to the children of critical workers for deep cleaning on **Friday afternoon only**.

**We ask that you help to prepare your child/children for returning to school and help them to understand the following arrangements:**

- Children will be in small groups with a maximum of 10 children.
- Groups will not be allowed to mix.
- Children will be spread across different classrooms.
- Children may not be with their class teacher.
- We cannot guarantee children will be in their usual friendship groups.
- Children may not be in their usual classroom.
- Children are not required to wear uniform.
- Y6 will finish at **1515**, Y1 will finish at **1500** and Reception will finish at **1330**.

**Strategies and supervision will be in place to ensure social distancing and routines will aim to ensure there is no potential cross-contamination of Covid-19 between groups of children.**

- The school day and timetable will be affected significantly.
- There will be no assemblies.
- PE lessons will be planned differently.
- Play times and lunch times will be staggered.
- Children will not have access to all parts of school.
- Children will stay with their group throughout the day and will only be taught/supervised by a small number of the same adults. These adults will not change.
- The timings of the school day will be different.
- The school day will end at different times for different year groups.
- Children will only be allowed to use allocated toilets.

There will be some teaching sessions in the morning linked to core subjects. There will be a daily social and emotional lesson giving children an opportunity to talk and reflect. There will also be daily physical activity, PE/Sport sessions but these lessons will be adapted to ensure social distancing.

### **When can children return to school?**

#### **Critical worker children**

We will continue to support the children of critical workers as best we can. Children of critical workers can return to school on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**. The timings of the school day for these children are as follows, **0830 – 1530**.

**School will be closed to the children of critical workers every Friday from 1230 for deep cleaning.**

**Children of key workers who have already used emergency childcare will stay in this group. Emergency childcare for critical workers in EYFS and Key Stage 1 will take place in the Parker Building. Emergency childcare for Key Stage 2 children will continue in the key stage 2 hall.**

Places must be booked in advance. NHS, emergency services workers and families in which both parents and single parent critical workers may take priority. Further guidance will follow in a separate letter about how childcare will be allocated. We cannot guarantee that there will be a place available for your child.

#### **Arrival to school**

The timings of the school day will be different. All year groups can arrive **between 0855 and 0915** to help stagger entering the school and to help enforce social distancing. We will inform you of your child's classroom as soon as possible. **Further information for dropping off and collecting children will follow.**

#### **Year 6**

Year 6 children can attend school from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. **The Year 6 school day will end at 1515.**

**Y6 children must be dropped off at the gate and must make their way immediately to the classroom. We ask that parents do not come onto the school site. School will be closed on Wednesday and Friday every week from 1230.**

#### **Year 1**

Year 1 children can attend school from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. The Year 1 school day will **end at 1500**. School will be closed on **Wednesday and Friday every week from 1230**.

#### **Reception**

Reception children can attend school from **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. Reception school day will **end at 1330**. School will be closed on **Wednesday and Friday every week from 1230**.

#### **Nursery**

We aim to open Nursery at a later date as currently the Nursery teacher is unavailable to return to school and we are still planning to ensure the children can return to school safely. **When the Nursery does re-open, sessions will be half an hour shorter 0830 – 1100 and 1300 – 1530. We cannot guarantee nursery will be open every day.** There will be no lunch club available for Nursery children. For now, Nursery will remain closed until further notice.

#### **Little Owls/Pre-School**

Little Owls will remain closed until further notice.

### **Owls before and after school club**

Owls before and after school will remain closed until further notice.

### **Lunchtime**

We advise that children bring a packed lunch if possible. If you are receiving government vouchers for free school meals, the voucher scheme will continue so that money can be used to provide a packed lunch. All year groups can order a school dinner, but hot dinners will not be available. A school dinner will consist of a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a snack and a drink. The packed lunches will be delivered to the children's classrooms to avoid cross-contamination.

We have tried to include all the necessary information but please contact the school mobile if you have any questions.

Please can you also talk through the following with your child, in advance of their potential return to school to help this to be as safe and smooth transition as possible:

- **Handwashing.** At school, children will be washing their hands frequently and thoroughly with running soap and water.
- **Social distancing on the school site.** Everyone on the school site will be very conscious about keeping a 2m social distance wherever possible – within classrooms, other rooms and buildings, corridors and outside. We will be putting up posters, marking the floor areas with tape and stickers and other visual reminders of this.
- **Classrooms.** Chairs, desks and other items in classrooms will be moved and adapted to enable social distancing wherever possible.
- **Equipment.** We'll be making sure that children don't share equipment with each other – including pencils, pens, books etc. Equipment in EYFS will be cleaned as regularly as possible and all soft toys, cushions and blankets will be removed from the classroom.
- **Playtimes/breaks.** It will be a change for children to not be playing in close contact with each other. We will talk to the children about this and ways to have creative playtimes/breaks that keep social distance.
- **Lunches** schools will make sure children are socially distanced at lunch times and they may stay in their learning groups. Equipment for lunchtime will be carefully cleaned and children must not mix cutlery, or share/swap food.
- **Following instructions from school staff.** In order for everyone to stay safe, it is essential that all children carefully follow instructions from school staff on everything mentioned above and the way that our school will operate for the rest of this half term.

Best Wishes,

Ian Taylor (Headteacher)

Simon Miller (Chair of Governors)

Gary Marsden (Vice Chair of Governors)