



Dear Parents/Carers

22/5/20

I hope you are all keeping well and safe and are making the best of this ongoing difficult situation.

Thank you all for your patience and support, and for taking on the 'home learning' and making the best of it in your varying circumstances. I know teachers have appreciated the feedback from parents, and have been delighted to see home learning via the class emails.

I apologise for this lengthy letter, but there is a lot to share with you.

Following the government's announcement about the phased reopening of schools, initially for YR, Year 1 and Y6, information has continued flow out to schools. I recognise that this may be a worrying and concerning time for our families.

We have been working hard to find the best way forward, that ensures the safety and well-being of children and staff, taking into account all the guidance, direction and risk assessment we are being provided with.

We want children to be safe and to have a happy and purposeful return to school.

Any return therefore needs to be extremely carefully planned and managed, so that risk is minimised. As a result, school won't be or feel like it should, but we will aim to provide a positive experience of being back at school, and staff will be welcoming, warm and caring as always- but it will feel very different for all of us. We are finalising our plans, to ensure we are implementing all the measures needed.

We have felt this has needed a very cautious and gradual approach, and therefore have taken the view that we cannot just have everyone back on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>. June. We have therefore taken the view that an **initial 2 week plan** will enable us to bring children back safely and in a manageable way. In this first phase, we will only have **Key workers' children, Reception and Year 6**. Once we can ensure that this can be managed within the limitations, we will look at Y1 pupils returning in the next phase.

The Government guidance says that can have no more than 15 pupils in any one group and that each school must make plans to reflect the unique nature of their setting, allowing for their specific needs and site characteristics.

According to the number of pupils we are expecting to return to school, we have split some year groups into more than one group or 'hub' as we are calling them. We will have 3 hubs initially

*Key Workers hub (Y1-5). Y6*

*Reception* children be in 1 hub using the Cherry class inside and outside areas. The children will be divided into two groups each with their own adults within this hub.

Y6 will be in 2 hubs. Y6 key worker children and non- key worker children.

Each hub will stay together and not mix with other hubs throughout the first phase of this 're-opening'.

We need to acknowledge to you that it will be very difficult to be able to maintain social distancing in school, especially with the younger children. Children naturally

gravitate towards each other in their learning and play and want to mix with their friends – something that will not be possible in the normal way.

We will make every effort to promote social distancing with the children and will help them to understand the reasons behind our new routines and rules.

We have therefore agreed that by starting the return with Reception we can ensure we have measures in place and routines established as well as possible with our youngest children whilst the school is quieter and with less children before we expand our provision further.

Therefore, our plan for Phase 1 of our return (1-12June) is as follows:

### **We will be open for key worker and identified pupils from 2 June.**

These children will be allocated a classroom base, which is likely to be Rowan class and new routines will be explained to them as we welcome more children in to the building.

### **For week beginning 1 June**

On **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** school will be closed. All staff will be in school attending training and updates, in order that we can ensure we have all we need in place for the Reception and the increase in Key worker families.

From **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** we will be open for key worker families only.

On **Wednesday 3 June and Thursday 4 June**, we will welcome back our Cherry pupils.

Please note that 'Key worker' pupils in Reception be part of Reception and therefore will follow the reception timings.

### **For week beginning 8 June**

We will be open for Key workers and identified pupils from Monday- Friday

We will be open for Reception pupils on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

We will welcome back our Y6 pupils on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Each Friday consists of planning and preparation time for all those continuing home learning (for those pupils in Y2, Y3,4,5 and any pupils in YR ,6 where parents have opted to keep them at home) and school based teaching, alongside communications with those families not attending school.

### **Timings**

Key worker pupils- Arrive 8.55 Pick up at 3.05

Reception pupils- Arrive 9am. Pick up at 2.30pm

Year 6 pupils- arrive 8.45 Pick up at 3.05pm

The slightly shorter days have been planned to support younger pupils as they return after a long absence, and to avoid lots of people gathering.

Each year group will have an allocated entrance and a staggered start and pick up time. You will be asked to wait in line for your child to be collected and taken into school by a member of staff.

More details on pick up and drop off to follow.

### **Attendance for Reception, Y6 pupils is not compulsory.**

Your decision will be respected, and the government, although wanting pupils to be encouraged to return, will not penalise parents who decide not to send their child to school just yet.

Should you wish for your child to start school again once we have already started in our hubs, we will do our best to accommodate your request, but may not be able to do so immediately. We will not be able to reorganise any of the hubs and will need to ensure we have appropriate staff cover available to welcome additional pupils in school.

### **Additional information**

#### **What will school look like?**

We have to minimise contact, maintain distancing, hand wash a lot and keep the school clean.

Each hub will be allocated key staff who will be responsible for supervising and teaching the children throughout the day. Your child will be working with a Teacher or Teaching Assistant they are familiar with. Pupils in the Key Worker group may not be. Your child will stay in their hub, and will not be mixing with adults or children from other hubs. Page 1 of this letter tells you how the hubs are grouped.

Classrooms will be rearranged differently to allow for additional spacing. Each hub will have an outdoor area, and playspace. Children in the key worker groups and Y6 will have their own 'homeplace' and set of equipment, such as pencils and crayons. In reception, the two groups will use separate sets of equipment. Some resources will be removed, so that those in use are easy to clean.

Teachers will be adapting the curriculum; topics will continue but be tweaked. There will be maths and English, but at this early stage learning will support personal development, good hygiene and help pupils adapt to the change. We will plan more individual learning and be planning learning for outdoors where possible.

Routines such as lunch, playtimes, 'toilet' stops will be staggered to minimise the possibility of hubs mixing, and numbers in toilets will be limited. We will have frequent handwashing through the day.

Regular cleaning will take place during the day, with particular attention at the end of the day and Fridays.

#### **School Meals**

We will be providing a packed lunch or 'lunch in a box'. All Reception and Year 1 children are entitled to a school provided lunch. Children will be eating with their hub. Children may bring their own packed lunch.

#### **Clothes**

Children should wear clean clothes to school each day. Although we would prefer children to wear their uniform, because we are back at school, they do not need to. If not children should wear a *suitable* alternative.

Finally,

Thank you to those parents who have responded to an early survey, which has helped to provide an idea of numbers. We now need you to confirm YES or NO, if your child will be returning or not for the start of the phase. Key workers need to advise what they need please.

**Note on key workers**

Key worker children are always welcome; however, if due to capacity issues, we are unable to accommodate all the children of parents who need to return to work, we will prioritise carers and front line/NHS staff and may not be able to accommodate all requests each day. Please advise school as soon as possible of your provision needs.

We will do our best to ensure that you are kept informed and up to date with all of our plans.

There will be further guidance shortly for you on:

The procedures should a child, teacher or family member has symptoms and / or is found to have the virus

Additional measures, such as arrangements for drop off and pick up.

However, please be alert to the fact that there may be changes as we receive more guidance and information. There is a planned announcement from the government about the reopening of schools on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. If anything changes then, I will be in touch to let you know how this has impacted and to inform you of alternative plans.

This time has brought huge challenges for us all. We are all learning new skills and ways of working! Thank you for all of your kind words and supportive messages. It is very much appreciated by all of us.

If you still have questions at this point, then please do get in touch and I will do my best to answer.

Kind regards

Mrs Helen Watson