

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the progress we are making on our plans for re-opening, should the Government decide that we are able to reopen in a phased manner. We are informed that the final decision will be made on Thursday 28th May.

Firstly, whilst the Government are advising that schools should reopen to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, (potentially from 1st June, although this is yet to be confirmed) in addition to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, we are planning to open **only** if the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff can be maintained.

In reality, this may mean that whilst we are able to welcome more pupils, places cannot be offered to all children in the specified year groups.

The school is working closely with Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) to ensure that our planning is comprehensive and we will be sharing a full risk assessment with all parents and carers once this has been finalised. DDAT are liaising with the Department for Education closely to ensure that any plans made are in line with Government guidance.

To update you on actions taken to date:

- Measurements of all classroom areas and teaching spaces have been taken and plans for each space developed that show how desks can be safely set out to ensure a 2-metre space (social distancing) between each child.
- From the measurements and plans above, a capacity number has been calculated for how many children each space can safely accommodate, including a member of staff. The full capacity figure for the school has also been calculated in this respect.
- The number of staff required to adequately supervise the smaller groups of children has been calculated taking into consideration requirements to have staff who are trained in first aid, paediatric first aid, mental health first aid, SEND and safeguarding (Designated Safeguarding Lead trained).
- Control measures are being implemented in circulation spaces such as corridors and around toilet areas.

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- Timetables are being adapted for all groups so that break and lunchtimes are staggered, and children can remain in their smaller groups to avoid wider interactions across the school with larger numbers of pupils and adults. Arrangements for lunch times are also being discussed with our catering and kitchen staff to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- Other timetable changes are being made to utilise outdoor space throughout the day (weather permitting) as much as possible and on a rota basis for each class/group.
- Staggered drop off and pick up times are being developed for each group of children with different collection and pick up points to those you may be used to.
- DDAT have issued guidance on their 'minimum hygiene standards' and this guidance is being used to develop our own hygiene routines in school. Children, staff and visitors will be required to follow our instructions on handwashing and cleanliness whilst they are on the school site.
- Additional facilities are being ordered to ensure cleanliness and staff are being briefed on routines around cleaning areas throughout the day as well as cleaning staff being briefed on additional actions on a daily basis to keep our school clean and safe. You may notice additional signage in school reminding everybody of their role in keeping the school clean.
- A safe room/space has been allocated for any pupil and/or member of staff who displays symptoms of the virus during the school day and needs to isolate.

As I'm sure you will understand, we are working in an environment that has many variables to consider: the limitations of our school site, the number of staff available to supervise classes in school whilst continuing home learning for all other pupils, the number of children of critical workers (that varies on a daily basis), the availability of additional cleaning and hygiene products, etc.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that robust planning is taking place behind the scenes to ensure the safety of staff and pupils in advance of a directive being made by the Government to re-open schools, whatever date that may be.

However, I must stress that vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will continue to be a priority for places in school. If we are able to safely accommodate further children in Reception, Year 1 and/or Year 6 we will so. All parents have now received a phonecall from school to find out whether a place would be required for their child. After the key worker or vulnerable group, we will be prioritizing those children whose parents said a definite 'yes'. We will communicate via text to give specific information on details and arrangements on their return once we receive further guidance from the government.

Yours Sincerely,

Headteacher