



29th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government have now confirmed that, following their review of the scientific data, there should be a wider opening of schools for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1st June (at the earliest).

I can now confirm that the timetable for the wider opening of our primary schools is:

Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd June: Our schools will be closed to all pupils (except keyworker/vulnerable children) for staff training and planning the revised curriculum and resources for pupils.

Thursday 4th June: Provision for Reception and Year 6 pupils in primary schools starts.

Monday 8th June: Provision for Year 1 pupils starts.

Keyworker and 'vulnerable' children provision will still continue in all of our schools for those year groups who are not being phased back into school. For all other year groups, the arrangements that have been in place since the 23rd March will continue. We will update parents/carers if this changes.

Your child's school will have already been in touch with you about the operational arrangements for bringing more children back into school. I would like to stress, however, that these arrangements are subject to constant review and may be subject to change at very short notice. To comply with the government guidance, we have a maximum number of students that we can have on site at any time. This will vary from school to school based on the size of classrooms and the layout of the site. This means that if demand for places goes above the maximum number then we will have to restrict what we can offer. The guidance also states that there is an order of priority in which places can be offered to parents. The priority for places is:

1. Key worker/vulnerable children
2. Reception
3. Year 1
4. Year 6

This means, for example, that if the demand for places for key worker/vulnerable children was the same as the maximum number of children we can have on site, then we would not be able to open for any other group other than key worker/vulnerable children. The maximum number of students we can have on site is also dependent on staffing. Staff absence will mean that we have to cut the provision we offer and limit the number of children we have on site on any one day.

I realise that this may be very inconvenient for parents but the health and safety of our pupils and staff is of paramount importance and we will not compromise this. We will endeavour to give parents/carers as much notice as possible if we have to cut the provision on site as a result of staff absence, but please be aware that this may be at very short notice. This is not a normal period of operation for our schools and we have a limited number of staff we can have on site.

Parents /carers should also be aware that some staff may be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the form of face masks, gloves etc. and we would be grateful if you could discuss this with

your child. We do not want to alarm children, particularly very young children, so please discuss this with them so they are not worried if they do see a member of staff wearing a face mask.

I stated in my last letter that the school your child returns to will be a very different one to the one they are used to. The staff in our schools are really looking forward to welcoming more children back and your child's school will have sent out information explaining about the practicalities of what school will look like in the next few weeks. It is vitally important that parents/carers are also aware that your child's school has updated their Home/School Agreement for those families whose child/children are coming back onto site. You will be sent this shortly if you have indicated your child will be returning to school. It is vitally important that parents/carers and children read this and confirm with your school that you accept the new agreement. We may not be able to offer your child a place if you do not accept the expectations set out in this new home school agreement.

Your child's school has also updated their behaviour policy for this period of wider opening and has set out some additional rules. The main aim of these rules is to keep everybody safe and reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus and infection, but we recognise that things can go wrong when children are learning new habits and they can sometimes forget, particularly very young children. In these circumstances we will support our pupils to help them try to remember the new rules and how they should behave. We recognise that we may have to do this on a number of occasions, particularly for our younger pupils.

I appreciate that the following is unlikely in our schools, but where a child behaves in a deliberately unsafe way (for example, by deliberately coughing or spitting on someone, refusing to follow our additional hygiene rules or by moving into someone else's class "bubble"), the school will take this very seriously. Any deliberately unsafe behaviour will be classed as a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy from 4th June 2020 onwards.

The additional rules are:


To keep one another safe we...

- *Try to keep our distance from one another (currently 2m)*
- *Use our own work/learning stations and equipment.*
- *Work, eat and play in our class 'bubble', and do not mix with people from other 'bubbles'.*
- *Move around school using markings and directions and avoiding other people.*
- *Follow our hygiene instructions:*
 - *catch all coughs and sneezes in a tissue and throw it away (catch it, bin it, kill it), then wash our hands*
 - *wash hands frequently (including whenever we are asked to), with soap and water for 20 seconds) or with hand sanitiser if soap and water is not available.*

The government has set out guidance for parents on the wider return to school and this can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Banks', written in a cursive style.

Paul Banks
Chief Executive Officer