



**CHELMSFORD
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Following on from the recent government announcements about the wider opening of schools for certain year groups, I wanted to set out to you the provisional plans for the schools in The Chelmsford Learning Partnership.

The government have asked schools to take some groups of pupils back from, at the earliest, the 1st June 2020 (Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 12). They have also set out an intention for the remaining pupils in primary schools to have some form of in school provision towards the end of the term. We have yet to receive any guidance on how provision for pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be managed and we will communicate our plans for these year groups when the guidance becomes available.

I should start by stating that all of the above plans have a caveat put in place by the government. They are reviewing the scientific data on Thursday 28th May and may decide to delay the wider opening of schools should the data indicate that it is not safe to allow more pupils into school. If this is the case, then we will continue with the provision that we currently have in place for our schools -our schools will only be open for emergency childcare of key worker and vulnerable children.

Should the government decide that the data suggests that a wider opening is possible then our schools will follow a timetable for a gradual increase in the number of pupils we will have on site. We have put in place robust risk assessments to ensure that we minimise the risks to your child/children and our staff when pupils return to school.

It is worth noting, however, that if and when more pupils come onto site, it will be a very different school that pupils return to. In line with government guidelines, we have limited the number of children that are in any class to ensure, wherever possible, that we can allow for social distancing in classrooms and in the playground. It will be slightly different for each school (based on the different sizes of each classroom space in each school), but class sizes will be around 10-15 pupils in each group. The maximum number of children in any one group is 15 but in many of our schools this will be lower as a result of smaller classroom spaces. Each group will be supervised by a member of staff; however, it is worth noting that this may not be your child's regular teacher. These small groups of pupils will stay together at break and lunch and there will be no interaction between different groups of pupils on the playground. There are also a number of other measures that each of our schools will be putting in place, including staggered starts to the school day and regular handwashing, and you will receive a letter shortly from your Headteacher explaining how the school day will look for children in each school.

I also appreciate that many parents are concerned about sending their child back to school at this time. Attendance in school for children in eligible year groups is voluntary. You do not have to send your child into school if you do not want to. The government have issued guidance to parents and carers and this can be found [here](#).

If the government say that the data suggests that schools can increase the number of pupils they have on site from the 1st June, then all our schools will provisionally follow the timetable (below):

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. Individual 'Progress and Welfare' Meetings start for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils.

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.

These arrangements will be subject to constant review and may be subject to change at very short notice. I appreciate that this may cause inconvenience for parents but the health, safety and well-being of our pupils and staff is our highest priority. We have a limit of children that we can have on any site at any one time and should the demand for provision in school exceed these limits, then we will have to restrict the provision we offer. Parents should also be aware that staff absence may also mean that we have to restrict our provision and limit the number of children that can come onto site on any given day.

There will be additional cleaning taking place on site daily in all of our schools, however all our primary schools will be closing for one afternoon a week to allow additional 'deep' cleaning to take place. This will not need to happen in the week beginning Monday 1st June but will start on the week beginning Monday 8th June 2020.

If you have a child/children in Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 12 your child's school will be in touch with you shortly to explain the next steps. For children in all other year groups, the arrangements that have been in place since the 23rd March will continue. Families who are eligible for Free School Meal vouchers will continue to receive these as they have over the last few weeks.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for the support they have shown all our schools over the last two months. It has been a very challenging time for everyone and the support you have given all our schools is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Paul Banks
Chief Executive Officer