



30th May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all safe and well.

After 10 weeks of closure to the majority of our pupils, we are on the point of opening our school to more children next week;

Year 6 class will start the ball rolling on **Tuesday 2nd June**

Year 1 class will start on **Monday 8th June**

Reception Class will start on **Monday 15th June**

The children will be in school from Monday to Thursday and school will be closed on Fridays.

We have surveyed the parents of the children each of the three classes that will be returning and it is fair to say that for many of them, the decision as to whether or not to send their children back to school has been a difficult one.

I have received a number of individual queries from parents about our re-opening and to those parents I would like to apologise for not being able to respond to you individually, however I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the frequently asked questions. I realise that for the majority of parents of children in nursery and years 2, 3, 4 and 5, this is not a current issue and we do not know when or if your children will be returning this term, however I hope that the information below will be useful to you.

Why will school be closed on Fridays?

The answer to this is twofold. Ordinarily teachers get half a day a week to plan, prepare and assess and this time is usually covered by another teacher. Rather than introducing another adult to the class we will be giving the teacher that time on a Friday. The teacher will also be able to manage the online learning of those in their class, who have not returned to school.

The second reason is that our cleaning contractor will be giving the school an additional and thorough clean the school on that day.

Will the children be expected to remain socially distanced?

The classrooms for the older pupils have been set up so that the children are socially distanced when in class and we will be implementing measures that ensure that each group of children keep within their 'protective bubble' (up to 15 children KS1 and KS2) throughout the day – in class, at play time at lunch time.

We all know that it will be very difficult to socially distance young children and so, where possible, the children will be able to play alongside each other in their groups. They will be able to see the other children from their class, who are in the other group, but not at close quarters.

How will you keep children apart?

We will be having a staggered start to the beginning and end of the day. Play times and lunch times will also be staggered. The children from each year group will be able to see and talk to each other but they will not be in the same space.

We are fortunate that we have different spaces that the children can play in. The children were getting used to our zoned lunchtimes. This will be similar.

Can I delay my child's return to school and join the group a week or two after their return date?

Unfortunately you cannot. In order to preserve the protective component of keeping children in their groups, we can't continuously introduce children to the groups as and when they want to join it.

Can my child join the group of children who are vulnerable or whose parents are critical workers?

At this point in time we would anticipate that the children of critical workers are already attending school. The advice has been that if there is another member of the household at home, who is not working then your child should remain at home with that person. If your child has recently become vulnerable for specific reasons then you should call the school directly so that we can discuss your child's vulnerability. We will deal with each child on a case by case basis.

It is important to remember for all concerned, that this group of children have been together, in the main, throughout the lockdown and therefore they are already in an established protective bubble.

If my child is in a class that is not scheduled to return, can they join one that is?

I'm afraid not. Many children will find it very difficult returning to school after such a long break and putting them in a class with unfamiliar adults and children may compound these difficulties.

Will my child be able to wear a mask in school?

Neither the adults nor the children will be able to wear masks during the school day. If a child (or adult) were to wear a mask throughout the day, they would probably touch it and remove it frequently throughout the day and in so doing they would be more likely to cause infection than prevent it.

In school, masks are for single use only e.g. if a child/adult exhibits Covid-19 symptoms, if someone requires first aid.

Can my child bring their own anti-bacterial hand sanitiser in to school?

There is no need. We have a copious amount of hand sanitiser in the school but we do not want anyone to use it repeatedly throughout the day. When entering and leaving the building it is useful but our primary message to everyone is to wash their hands frequently with soap and warm water so that hands are clean, but we are not stripping them of their natural oils.

I am sure that many of you have questions that you would like to ask but I hope that I have managed to answer some of them.

Arts Week Postcards 1st - 5th June

Wow! I didn't know that we had so many budding artists. We have already received a large number of beautifully decorated postcards from your children. I hope they were as excited about receiving their postcard in the post as we have been in receiving their completed works of art. I know that many of the children love the idea of the competition. I must say that I will not be the judge as I will find that task impossible!

Keep sending the cards in children, you still have time to complete your postcards and send them in.

Thank you parents, your support in helping your children to participate in this project is much appreciated.



Birthdays between 1st June and 7th June 2020

Happy 4th Birthday

1st June – **Joe** (Nursery)

Happy 11th Birthday

2nd June – **Sashy** (Year 6)

3rd June - **Caelan** (Year 6)

Wishing you all a wonderful day!

Thank you all for your continued support.
Keep safe.

Anne Fontaine
Headteacher