



## Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

11<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot believe how fast this academic year has come to an end. Thank you very much to our families and staff for working so hard throughout school closure to support our children. This year has definitely been a challenging one and it would not have been possible if it wasn't for the support that parents and staff have provided for all our children and still continue to do so.

When school first closed for all children (20<sup>th</sup> March 2020), we continued to remain open for all key worker and vulnerable groups of children (including throughout school holidays and bank holidays). Teams of staff continued to ensure high quality education and over a period of time the number of children accessing this provision has increased significantly. We now teach these groups of children in 3 key groups – Early years foundation stage (group 1), KS1 (group 2) and KS2 children (group 3) in different rooms with a structured program of phonics, reading, maths and foundation subjects. These groups of children have benefitted significantly throughout school closure.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> June the Government has announced that children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should return to school. In addition to these year groups we have safely and successfully brought back children from Year 4 (Monday to Friday) and Year 5s every Saturday which will continue from the 20<sup>th</sup> July Monday to Friday. As a school we have done really well and I am very proud of my team for making this possible.

Now that the government has decided that schools must open for all pupils from September, I wanted to share the key messages for our full return. As we have done throughout this period, whenever we have a new update, I will inform you immediately.

### **Reducing the risk of the virus spreading**

From September there is an expectation for the full opening of all schools, clear guidance has been shared to ensure this happens safely. Many of the procedures we have implemented during these last months will continue to be put in place; our risk assessment reflects the new guidance for the full opening. Essential preventative measures will continue to take place:

- minimised contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- robust hygiene measures such as frequent hand washing, access to tissues, hand sanitizer, hand gel and running water in all classrooms
- enhanced cleaning arrangements throughout the day
- engagement with NHS Track and Trace
- reduced contact and maximizing distancing measures





## Children meet their teacher (next week)

From the 13<sup>th</sup> July children have been invited to meet their class teacher for September 2020. All parents /carers would have received a text message regarding which day your child should come to school. Current guidance states 2m distances must be in place. We have **NOT** invited the whole class back to meet their teacher on one day for September – instead small groups of no more than 12 children have been invited over 2 days to meet their class teacher for September. This is to ensure social distancing is achieved based on the current guidance. Please remember all staff have attended the training on our risk assessments to safely bring back our children. Please watch the video with your child on our school website (Year 1 and Year 6) so that they are familiar with the settings at present – same principles will apply when your child comes in to meet their new teacher.

**Year 5 children going to Year 6 have been invited in streams. This has been done to create consistent groups to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group.**

Once other year group teachers get to know their children well, I hope by October half term more year groups (Year 1 – Year 5) will stream as well. Maintaining distinct streams or ‘bubbles’ that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible.

From October half term your child (Year 1 – Year 5) will still have their home class but they will be taught the full day entitlement in their stream group which is their bubble. We will work with smaller numbers of children per bubble from September which will help significantly with helping your child academically to catch up with missed learning. We await further guidance in the Autumn term to let us know when different bubbles, such as home classes and stream groups, can mix again. All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable.

## Protective measures in class

In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading, we will set seats side by side, face them forward and remove unnecessary furniture out of the classroom to make more space. This practice has already been put in place with our phased return, and during our early closure next week, we will rearrange classes in line with the new guidance.

**We will continue to make stationary packs for all children in September, and we ask your child to only bring essentials to school such as lunch boxes, hats, coats and books. Bags are allowed and children will continue to be able to take books home with them.**





## Transport

We encourage walking, cycling or using the scooter to travel to school. Where your child uses a scooter or bike, we kindly ask you to take the vehicle home with you afterwards as we are unable to store them on site at this stage. If you drive your child to school, we ask you to drive carefully around the school streets and switch your engine off when dropping off.

Appointments with staff members must be made via the office, and relevant staff will contact you at their first opportunity.

## Attendance

In March, when the coronavirus outbreak was increasing, the government made clear no parent or carer would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance. Now, the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all the children to return to school to minimise the impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development.

From the autumn term, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including the availability to issue sanctions.

I recognise that these are unprecedented and uncertain times, but you can be reassured that we are fully committed to your child's safe and welcome return to school.

Once again, I would like to thank you and share my gratitude on behalf of all staff for your kindness and your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chetty  
Headteacher

