

22nd May 2020



Please read ALL information.

This letter is to update you on our plans in relation to the recent announcement from the Government of the potential re-opening of schools from 1st June for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children and in conjunction with the advice from the Local Authority that was published this morning.

I know you will all be wondering what is going to happen and if or when our school will re-open. I want to reassure you that senior leaders of the school have been working carefully to formulate a plan to enable us to open safely in line with DFE guidance. Child care remains available for the key worker children who have been in school.

Government guidance still may change and the date of the 1st June remains an aspiration at this point. The Governors and Senior Leaders of the school and the advice from the LA, agrees in principle, based on our need to plan and ensure school is ready, that **the 8th of June at the earliest** is realistic for Reception, year 1 and year 6 children. In order to continue to plan effectively, this is **ONLY** for those children who have responded to the survey and requested a place, either through the survey or through the Wharton closed email account The survey is now closed and therefore if you have not responded to the survey you will need to contact the closed@wharton.cheshire.sch.uk account if you wish to discuss your child taking up a place. **It remains that this may change if government guidance changes.**

We have considered how best we can ensure the safety of our children, including hygiene, best practice and working within 'bubbles'. A bubble will be a group of either, key worker children, or children in the same year group, remaining together at all times. Staff and children will be working within bubbles and these bubbles will exist in isolation within different areas of the school building. We cannot guarantee social distancing but we will promote it wherever possible for the children and staff.

Children **may not** be in a classroom they are familiar with and **may not** be with their own class teacher.

If your child chooses not to follow systems in place to keep everyone safe and is putting others at risk then you will be contacted and expected to collect your child. Managing the risks around the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff and children in school is my highest priority.

Symptoms and falling ill in school

If a child or member of staff becomes unwell in school then they would be isolated immediately and under government guidance would then need to arrange to be tested. We would inform all those in that bubble and if the test was positive for COVID-19 then the entire bubble including staff would need to isolate for 14 days

Free School meal Vouchers

Those children entitled to a free school meal who have been receiving vouchers, will, from the 15th June (if school opens) have a packed lunch provided by the school kitchen. This can be collected from school in the same way as when 'Lockdown' first started. The last voucher is currently the 8th June (no voucher issued for half term week). Obviously this will be monitored and if guidance to schools changes and we only remain open for key workers then the vouchers will continue.

I appreciate that this is a tricky time and respect the decisions you are making for your families and children based on your own circumstances. It is important that you are well informed as to the plans we are putting in place but I need you to be aware that plans may have to change in line with DFE and government guidance, and the support and guidance that we receive from the Local Authority.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you that have emailed in with your support of the decisions we have been making as a school and thank you for the positive response to both the home learning and school based activities that have been provided. We are thoroughly enjoying seeing all your pictures on our home learning Facebook page and I want to thank you for all your efforts.

I do hope you are all well and remain safe.

Kind regards

Natalie Tomlinson

The following Appendix outlines key information that you can discuss with your child.

APPENDIX

Overview of key points for your information if school is to reopen:

Key worker children can continue to come to school at 8am for breakfast **OR** 9am if breakfast is not required. If you are a key worker and your child is in R/Y1/Y6 and you require breakfast club they will stay in the key worker group and **NOT** access their own year group.

In order to ensure that parents and children attending school for the first time are aware of the systems in place, our provisional plan is for a staggered start over the 8th and 9th of June. **Year 6 would attend on the 8th at the designated time and Reception and year 1 on the 9th at the designated times. Key worker children would continue to attend as they have been doing, on the days that they require.**

- School uniform will not be required
- **NO** breakfast club unless key worker child (see above).
- Each day, your child should come to school wearing fresh, clean clothing suitable for outdoor activities (Please provide sun cream/hats if the weather is hot)
- **Prompt** staggered start and pick up times are as follows:

Reception and Year 6 to arrive between 8.45- 8.55am and to be collected at 2.50pm.

Year 1 to arrive between 9 - 9.10am and to be collected at 3pm.

*Key workers arrive at either 8 am **OR** 9am and to be collected at 3pm.*

Year 6 to arrive at external doors of Y6 classrooms.

Year 1 to arrive at the year 2 classroom door on the playground.

Reception to arrive at the year 1 playground classroom doors.

*Key workers continue to arrive at the doors near the hall at either 8am **OR** 9am.*

Children will be dismissed from the same doors that they enter the building.

- One way system for pick up and drop off. Parents must follow social distancing
- Designated toilets/handwashing stations (parents may send hand cream/mini hand sanitiser for children)
- A one way system in corridors.
- Social distancing to be observed when children are dropped off and collected. Staff will release one child at a time.
- No hot meals – lunch will be provided if required, as a school sandwich/grab bag or you can provide sandwiches from home.
- Children attending school entitled to a free school meal will receive one, and that includes all children attending in Reception, year 1 and those who are year 2 key worker children.
- Please send your child with a water bottle.
- Staggered breaks and lunches
- Frequent cleaning of key areas/touch points
- Extensive cleaning at the end of each day

- Class/group bubbles of no more than 15 – smaller where possible
- Individual resource packs for children to use
- No book bags/pencil cases/items from home other than lunch bag/water bottle to be brought to school.
- Only key worker children can be collected before 3pm providing the time has been agreed the day before.