

## Phased Return FAQs

### Classrooms / The School Day

#### **Will we get more information about how the school day will work?**

Yes – we are going to produce information tailored for each year group with timings, arrangements for drop off/pick ups, some information about the day, what children need to bring etc. The detailed risk assessment will also be published on the school website before the weekend.

#### **How will you ensure that teachers will be at 2m from the children at all times? How will you enforce social distancing with the children?**

The guidance for schools states that:

*Early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:*

- *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *regular cleaning of settings*
- *minimising contact and mixing*

In school, we will be using the smaller ‘bubble’ groups as a protective factor - whilst it is not feasible for adults and children/children and children to always be 2m from each other within the school setting, children and staff from different ‘bubbles’ can and will be kept at 2m from each other whenever possible, limiting the contacts to those within the ‘bubble’. We are fortunate to have vast grounds and have designated spaces for regular use of the outside areas for playtimes, lunchtimes and also other outside learning to enable them to work outside whenever possible.

Within the bubble, we will be distancing the children as much as we can – spacing out tables, chairs, seating positions etc., and adapting the ways we interact with the children. This will look different in YR to Y6. In Y6, children will be sat at a designated desk when they are in the classroom, facing forward – there will be minimal movement (to go to the toilet, wash hands, put tissues in the bin) when they are inside. We have set up the tables for the maximum number of children we are expecting back in each class, and the minimum distance between desk spaces is approximately 1.5m apart. As there are still some families who are undecided, any desks which are not needed will be removed from the rooms nearer the time which will enable greater spacing. Whilst we have risk assessed for, and are planning to enable, up to 15 children in any group bubble, initial feedback shows that the Y6 groups will likely have a maximum of 12 children in each bubble; in YR/1, the maximum ‘bubble’ ‘ ranges from 9 to 13 children, with two adults.

In Y1, children will have set chairs and tables for when they are working in the classroom, but half the group will be outside at any one time. In YR, the children won’t have set desks as the curriculum is far less ‘table’ based, but surfaces will be cleaned between different children accessing the writing table, for example. There will be greater movement for the younger children, but they won’t be able to free flow between the classroom and outside – this will be done on a rota and with their key adult. When outside in their smaller group, they will have access to some of the play equipment they are used to. They will be allowed to play alongside children in their ‘bubble’, but without direct contact, and only 2 or 3 children will be able to access any of the child initiated activities at any one time. There will be lots of conversations about ways to play and the new rules we need to follow.

Y6 teachers will be mainly teaching from the front of the class – whilst they will not be 2m from the children at all times, they will be distancing as much as possible, and changing the way they approach marking and feedback.

With younger children, it is recognised that it is not possible or appropriate for the children to remain 2m distance from the adults at all times. If a child needs assistance for safety, first aid or hygiene, adults within the ‘bubble’ will assist, but with careful hygiene and hand washing. When working with children, adults will be positioning themselves sideways to avoid face-to-face positions, and distancing where possible.

#### **Will the children be sitting together at lunchtime and playing together at playtimes?**

The children will be eating lunch in the classroom – this will be spaced out as much as possible. They will have set places for outdoor play and will only be interacting with children within their ‘bubble’. The adults will be doing lots of discussion with the children about alternative games to play. With such small groups, the adults supervising will be able to engage the younger children in games such as what’s the time Mr Wolf, individual races etc. if they aren’t sure

what to do. Each class bubble will also have a selection of easily cleaned small equipment that they will have to play with – this will be cleaned each day, and the children will be washing their hands at regular intervals, including before and after lunch play.

### **Am I able to bring siblings with me to drop off my YR/1 child?**

Where ever possible, we will be asking parents not to bring siblings, but we recognise that some parents may have no choice but to do so. Only one adult per child will be permitted on site for drop offs, and younger siblings must be carried or held by the hand/reins to keep them close to you.

### **Will childminders be allowed to collect children from more than one class?**

If childminders are able to re-open and are likely to be bringing/dropping children to more than one year group, we would ask that they email the school as soon as they know the likely days/classes and we will make individual arrangements, depending on the number of children to avoid congestion and also agree a single point collection point.

## Hygiene/Cleaning

### **How often will the school be cleaned?**

There will be an increased cleaning schedule across the school with some areas being done more than once a day (frequently touched surfaces such as tables, toilets, sinks etc.). All areas will be cleaned at the end of each day, but with a more thorough clean on Wednesdays and Friday evenings for the changeover between groups. This will particularly focus on the surfaces that will have been regularly used by individuals in one class bubble to prepare them for the next bubble, including chairs. Classroom staff will also be involved in ensuring regular cleaning of toys and equipment during the day and at the end of the day (particularly in the younger year groups).

### **Do we need to provide masks/gloves for our children to wear?**

No – the government guidance states

*“Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”*

## Testing / Dealing with those with Symptoms

### **If any member of the bubble has symptoms, does everyone and their families have to isolate?**

No – we will be following the guidance from the government guidance for schools on implementing protective measures in schools:

*“When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.*

*Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.*

*Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that*

*wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.”*

### **Will tests be given immediately to work out if the symptoms are Covid 19? Will testing be done for both staff & pupils on regular basis?**

Staff can already access tests for Covid-19 if they show symptoms and we understand that this is going to be rolled out more widely so that children with symptoms will also be able to access testing - we will encourage any children who display symptoms, however mild, to be tested, so that we will know whether any further measures will need to be taken with those who have had contact with them in the ‘bubble’.

Routine testing for staff is not planned as it is currently only aimed at those who are showing symptoms, or who are having to self-isolate because a family member has symptoms.

### Parental Choice

#### **Can we change our mind? What is the process for doing so?**

Yes – we are happy for parents to change their mind from their decision on the form earlier this week which was to give us a general idea of numbers to enable us to plan. So far, teachers have placed all the children of parents who answered ‘yes’ on the initial form, and those who were undecided, into either group A or group B for their class - you will receive an individual Parentmail with your child’s group and the staff members allocated to the bubble. If you were undecided or answered ‘yes’ but decide that your child *won’t* be coming back straight away, please email/phone the school as soon as you make that decision – this is particularly important in Y1 and Y6 where individual places are being set up as we would like to remove any unnecessary furniture for the phased return opening.

We will then ask parents to let us know by Friday lunchtime each week if there are any changes for the following week –if your child has been attending and will not be coming in the following week, but also if you have kept your child off and would now like them to attend. This is to allow time for the classroom furniture to be adjusted if necessary and to make sure the individual resource packs are ready.

If you said ‘no’ on the initial response form, we have not allocated your child a group at this point. If you may change your mind at a later date, we will allocate them to the class bubble with the lowest number of pupils at that point.

#### **Can I remove my child from school once they have returned if they become upset at being away from home?**

Yes – it is really important that the phased return is a positive experience for the children who do return at this time, otherwise we risk further increasing children’s anxieties around school. If your child is likely to be more anxious or clingy at first, we will be asking you to arrive at school towards the end of the ‘window’ for drop offs and we will discuss with individual parents the best way to proceed.

### Key Worker Provision

#### **My child has been attending the key worker provision in a YR classroom with teachers from KS1. Where will this move to and who will be running the provision once YR/1 start to return?**

The KS1 key worker provision has already moved to the Y2 classrooms this week so that the YR classrooms can be cleaned and prepared for the phased return. After half term, there will be a separate Y2 key worker group run by Miss Partridge and then a YR/1 key worker group which will be run by the rest of the Y2 team of teachers, TAs and LSAs.

### Preparing for Return

#### **How should we prepare our child for the return to school?**

If you are happy for your child to return to school next month, it is important to start that conversation with them and to give them the chance to talk to you about what their worries might be. Once you know their group, you will be able

to let them know which adults will be in their classroom as well. Whilst we aren't able to let you have a list of the groups, you may be able to find out from your contacts with other parents who else will be going into school on the same day.

Children may well have heard that 'schools aren't safe' and so it will be important to talk to your child at an age appropriate level about what has changed from when schools closed. To help prepare them, I will be sending out links to an assembly message from me for YR/1 and another aimed at Y6 so that I can tell the children about some of the differences, but also the things which are going to be the same, that hopefully might provide some reassurances. I'm sure there will be other useful resources published nationally, and we will signpost these for parents as we are sent them.

It is unfortunate that we cannot be sure at present that the phased return will start on 1<sup>st</sup> June, as it appears that the decision will be announced on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> May after the government's 3 week review. It may be wise to ensure that you prepare your child, but without giving a definite time scale.

### General Questions

#### **Are schools safe? What are the chances of children catching coronavirus whilst at school?**

I would love to be able to answer these questions for you, but I can't. Our plans are all about minimizing risk. We will only be opening more fully when the government says that they believe it is safe to start the phased return – when they do say it is 'safe', it is about them believing the risks are minimal and controlled, not that there is *no* risk. I will be publishing our risk assessment on the school website later this evening, which has been reviewed by staff and governors, and this will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis (it is already version 4!).

I am inviting parents to make the decision based on what you feel is right for your child. I know that this isn't an easy decision for some, and as already stated, whatever you decide at this point will be respected and supported. This has to be an individual decision.