



18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Moving Forward – Next Steps

Many thanks to everyone who has shared thoughts with us following our letter last week. In that letter we shared with you the basis on which we will be opening the school to more children in the near future. Your thoughts have been invaluable in helping us to shape our next steps together.

As you will know the Prime Minister is currently expecting that schools will be able to accept more children from **Monday 1st June - if this date changes we will let you know, but we are currently planning to accept more children from this point.**

What will this look like?

In line with our key principles shared in our last letter our provision will see:

- Provision for children of Key Workers to continue across 5 days a week;
- A maximum of 8 children from Reception; a maximum of 8 children from Year 1; a maximum of 8 children from Year 6 will attend school each day. Every child in these years will attend school for one day each week, parents will be notified of the days their children can attend by Friday 22nd May;
- Normal school day timings will be in operation with a flexible start from 8.35am to 8.50am and a 3.15pm finish;
- Each day will be led by the children's 'proper' teachers; in their 'proper' classrooms; 'proper' familiar adults will be supporting the provision; 'proper' friends will be in the provision. This will all see 'real' relationships being enjoyed again in familiar settings;
- School will be open to children across 4 days a week, Monday to Thursday as detailed above;
- Friday will be used to provide teachers with planning, preparation and assessment time, which is a legal requirement. This arrangement will ensure all children spend their precious time in school with their own teacher and teaching team, rather than alternative 'cover' staff members;
- There will be separate entrances and exits to the building for each group of children;
- There will be separate drop-off and pick-up points for each group of children;
- Separate outside areas will be allocated for each group of children to use during the day for outdoor learning and play;
- Break time and Lunchtime supervision will be carried out by the same adults leading learning during the day, this will provide consistency for children and limit contact and support everyone's safety;
- Lunchtimes will be taking place within classrooms, minimising risk of contact and preventing the need to share spaces in school;
- School lunches will be available, we will be offering jacket potato, hot meal and packed lunch options. **Where payment for lunch is needed this will need to be made via School Gateway, there will not be the option to pay at school;**
- The **only** access to the school site will be through **Queensway gate**, in order to support arrangements for social distancing, this will be supported by staff;
- We are planning for siblings to spend time in school on the same days wherever possible, we will group children with this in mind;
- Friendships will be considered within groupings; Year 6 children will be grouped with Secondary School transition in mind;
- Parents and children are requested to follow social distancing guidelines when picking up and dropping off children, in accordance with Government requirements;

- Close parental control of children on the school site is required, in order that appropriate social distancing is maintained;
- No parents will be permitted within the school building and classrooms at pick up or drop off, in order to minimise the risk of contact and support the safety of children, staff and parents;
- All social distancing and government guidelines on engagement, cleanliness and hygiene will be maintained through a thorough risk assessment processes;
- Classrooms have been rearranged, in order to maintain social distancing requirements at all times. This has included removing items of furniture and equipment;
- There is a clear path to the toilets in accordance with social distancing guidelines, only one child at time will be permitted to use the toilet area;
- Grassed areas will be marked out with 2 metre grid to support social distancing when children are using the field area;
- Cleaning arrangements have again been extensively revised, in order to provide a mid morning clean of key areas as well as an extensive end of day clean;
- Children are allowed to bring in one bag to school in order to carry their equipment, lunch and snack, they are not allowed to bring in any soft toys.

Why are we working this way?

We have developed this way of working with our key principle of keeping children and adults safe and happy at the forefront of our minds. We are also keen that the approach we have set out:

- Gives the maximum level of confidence to all children and parents;
- Allows all children and parents from Years 1, 6 and Reception to engage with these first steps, so they can see their friends, their teacher and other familiar adults. We are keen that no one is left out, due to any concern or worries about the safety of provision;
- Sees groups of 8 children attending school each day, 'cocooned' with each other and their adults for the whole school day;
- Ensures children have no contact or sharing of spaces throughout the day;
- Is based upon the success of our provision for children of key workers, which has seen no negative impact upon children or adults' health and well being;
- Might allow us to provide a wider range of activities for children to enjoy at home, which are tailored to individual children's needs.

We currently plan to review and hopefully extend this provision in three weeks time, in line with the Government's recent approach to three week phased reviews. This period will allow us to be clear as to whether there has been any impact upon the health of children or adults, locally and nationally.

We are sad that we cannot be welcoming more children more often, however we feel that the health and safety of your children as well as adults must come first. We are hopeful that if things go well we will extend the number of year groups attending school at our first review later on in June.

Parents of children in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes can expect to hear from us later this week. We will provide further details of arrangements for the school's operation and the day on which their child should attend each week.

We will work to let everyone know how arrangements are working and **will always seek to give you one weeks notice** of any changes to plans, wherever this is possible.

Once again thank you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board