



Monday 1st June 2020

Reopening school to reception from next week

Dear Families,

I want to let you know what we are putting in place to welcome **reception children** back from next week. We have based all our plans on the very latest health and safety guidance, but also balancing this with children's emotional wellbeing, as we know that this is an anxious time for adults and children.

Small Groups called 'bubbles'

Children in reception, will be invited back to school in small groups called 'bubbles' on 2 set days a week. In reception, this means a bubble will have no more than 10 children from the class with their class teacher and a teaching assistant. We will let you know which 2 days (either Monday & Tuesday or Thursday & Friday) your child will attend if you choose to send your child back to school. The bubble is important to ensure that children and adults are not mixing with others during the school day. For this reason, if a child is unable to attend on their agreed set days, they will not be able to attend another 'bubble' later in the week.

Drop off and pick up times

To ensure that we practise social distancing, 'bubbles' **will be given set drop off and pick up times**. It will be important that adults bringing their child to school, stick to these times to ensure that there is not a crowd of people gathering. There will be 2 metre markers and signs around the entrance and classrooms, just like you would find in a supermarket. **Only 1 adult** with a child, will be allowed onto the school site and if possible we ask that siblings remain at home if they can. Unfortunately adults will not be able to come into the classroom to settle their child at this time, but staff will be warm and welcoming on the doors. If families would like to discuss matters about their child we ask that you telephone school or email the class teacher.

Attendance

The government has said that no family will be fined for non attendance at school during this time. However, if you have agreed to send your child to school on the set days, you will still need to call and let the school know, if your child is absent on those days, for any reason.

Bringing things to school

Children will not be able to bring books, book bags, water bottles or any other personal equipment into school, other than a coat, sun cream with their name on it (if sunny and hot), a sun hat, wellies and a spare change of clothes. This is to prevent the potential spread of the virus as much as possible. Please note that staff will be unable to apply sun cream so only bring this in if your child can apply it themselves.

Illness and first aid

If your child or anyone else in your family is displaying symptoms of Covid19; persistent new cough, high temperature and loss of sense of smell or taste, then the whole family must stay at home for 14 days. We understand that any children over the age of 5 is now able to be tested for Covid19. If staff were aware that anyone in the bubble had tested positive for Covid19, then the bubble would be closed and all staff and children would need to self isolate for 14 days.

If a child displays any Covid19 symptoms whilst at school, they will be immediately isolated from the 'bubble' and the family will be called.

If first aid is needed, staff will continue to administer this, using personal, protective equipment PPE, as appropriate.

Uniform

We would encourage your child to attend school on those 2 days in uniform. However, if your child has grown out of theirs, please send your child in clothing that is comfortable and easy to undo and do up (no strappy tops please that put your child at risk of sunburn, or footwear that they can't get on and off)

Cleaning and handwashing

Cleaning will regularly take place throughout the day, particularly for contact points and toilets. Children will be regularly supported to wash their hands at the beginning of the day as well as routinely throughout the session. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom to enable hand washing between activities.

Social Distancing

We accept that very young children cannot social distance. Therefore by agreeing to send your child into school families understand that their child will be mixing with other children and adults in their bubble.

Lunches

On the 2 days your child is in school each week, they will have a school packed lunch which they will eat in their classroom or outside in their bubble.

Emotional wellbeing

Staff understand that it is very important that as much as possible, children returning to school feel safe and supported. Whilst some equipment will be removed from the class, teachers will work hard to ensure as far as possible, the classrooms are still a warm and welcoming place for children to be. Priority will be given to activities that support emotional well being eg specific stories and games that help children understand emotions and the use of the outdoors will be a priority.

Information about the school day

As much as possible staff will do their best to make the day as 'normal and routine' as possible. Children will have access to the outdoor area, eat lunch in their classroom and take part in familiar activities eg story time, singing.

Home school packs

Because staff will be teaching 4 days a week, with the hope that reception children will attend 2 days a week, there will be **less 'work'** being provided to complete at home from 8th June. If this is a worry, please contact your child's class teacher.

We hope that this information is helpful in enabling you to make an informed decision about what you feel is right for your child and your family. Whilst we can minimise the risk, we know that we cannot eliminate it entirely.

Reception teachers will call each family in their class during this week, to ask them to confirm their child's attendance.

If you have any queries or questions, please talk to your child's class teacher when they call.

Kind regards



Sarah Mardell (Mrs)
Head Teacher



