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A member of the Central Co-operative Learning Trust



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Dear Parents,

As you are aware the Government has made the decision that they MAY re-open schools in June to some year groups. Those year groups are Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The opening will only go ahead if the Government's tests have been met.

Key worker and vulnerable children from all other year groups will still be able to attend. We are now working hard on making sure that procedures, risk assessments and measures are in place to reduce the risks to children, staff and parents.

These include staffing ratios, adjusting classroom layouts, outdoor space use, break times, start and end of the day arrangements. Social distancing in schools at a 2 metre distance is very difficult to achieve - especially with the youngest children. We will however, encourage children to do so at all times. Measures also include continuing the good hygiene practice that we have worked on with the children previously.

Organisation

On return to school, all children will be organised into 'bubbles'. These are groups of up to 12 children, depending on the size of the classroom they will be taught in. Each bubble will have a teacher and a teaching assistant. While children will be in a bubble with children from their own year groups, there is no guarantee that they will be with their friends nor members of their own class. Children will only be able to mix with children in their own bubble and will eat packed lunches in their classrooms. They will also have their own outdoor zone in which to play away from other bubbles. If one person from that bubble tests positive for Covid 19, their whole bubble, including staff will have to self-isolate for 14 days.

There will be no breakfast club or after school clubs and the beginning and end of the school day will vary according to your child's Year group and bubble. These timings have not yet been organised.

Timings

More details will follow on how we will manage the practicalities of each day but I just wanted to share with you the timetable that we hope to work to on condition that the Government tests are met and the scientific advice tells us that it is safe to open.

Next week would normally be our school holiday. While some of our staff will be in school to care for the children of key workers from Tuesday to Friday, they will not be involved in the provision of home learning during this time.

School will be closed to all children on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd of June as we will be using inset days to prepare for the return of more children into school. On Wednesday 3rd June, Our key worker children will return but they will now be placed in their year group bubbles.

On the week commencing Monday 8th June, the Year 6 pupils, whose parents have indicated that they will be returning to work in our survey, will be returning to school. At this stage they will be able to come in from Monday to Thursday every week. This may change if the Government asks us to take more year groups before the end of the summer term.

We then hope to introduce those Year 1 children whose parents asked for a place in our survey on Wednesday 10th June with Reception following suit on Monday 15th June. At the moment, we will be able to offer every week to these children from Monday-Thursday. If more parents request a place, we will not be able to admit their children straight away as this will necessitate a change in organisation to a one week on, one week off arrangement due to the restrictions of space and numbers of staff.

There are no definite plans to open Nursery at the moment though this is something that we might try to accommodate when we have made provision for Years R, 1 and 6.

There is still a great deal to organise. We will be staggering the beginning and end of the school day as well as breaks, lunchtimes and we will need to be very strict in these timings. We will also need to work a one way system for parents entering and leaving the premises with their children, parents will need to email or telephone the office rather than being able to come in. There are so many things to think about and I hope that you will bear with us while we work out the fine detail. If your child is one of those who will be attending, we will be sending out more information after the holidays. On Wednesday 3rd June, key workers should continue to bring in their children to the same place at the same time as they have so far.

School Uniform

The most important requirement is that children's clothes are washed when they come home from school and that they come in to school wearing clean clothes each day to reduce the risk of infection. Therefore, we do not require children to wear school uniform. We would, however, ask you to dress your child in clothes suitable for outdoor activities including sport so that the children do not have to get changed during the day. This would include wearing shoes or trainers rather than sandals. Children should not bring anything into school apart from their lunch box and water bottle. We will be providing children with their own named pens, pencils, rulers etc.

Home Learning

On Friday mornings teachers will focus on the children who have not been coming into school. They will be looking at the work that they have been doing and contacting the children via phone calls or zoom groups to share how they are and what they have been doing. On Friday afternoons, teachers will be doing planning for children who are at school and for those who are working at home. Key worker children will still be able to attend on Fridays and will be taught by our Teaching Assistants.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we organise things. I will send more detailed information straight after the holidays.

Best wishes,

Mrs Curtis