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Friday, 12 June 2020

Dear Parents,

We have devised a partial school opening strategy and will begin by inviting Year 6 pupils into school next week. If your child is starting next week you will have had a phone call inviting them in and informing you of the safety measures we have put in place. All parents will be contacted by phone and given their child's start day and date. What follows is essential information that will allow our school opening to be as smooth and as safe as possible.

Please read carefully the series of questions and answers outlining our partial opening strategy.

<p><b>Who will be able to attend school when it partially reopens?</b></p>	<p>At this stage, this term we are only opening school for Year 6, Year 1 and Reception classes starting on the following dates:          Year 6 start from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June          Year 1 start from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June          Reception start from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June          After the initial start date, each of these year groups will be in school for four days a week Monday to Thursday - for the rest of the term.</p>
<p><b>I am a key worker/My child is vulnerable. When is my child able to start school?</b></p>	<p>Key worker and vulnerable children can continue to attend for up to 5 days a week. To avoid cross contamination, these children will be offered the option to join their year group if it is one that is opening. Parents will need to pick one option.</p>
<p><b>What time can my child arrive at school?</b></p>	<p>Year 6, Year 1 and Rec children will arrive between 8:55 - 9.25.          You will be given exact times when your child is invited to return.          Key worker and vulnerable children - 8.00 - 8.40.</p>
<p><b>Where shall I drop my child off in the morning and collect at the end of the day?</b></p>	<p>Year 6 - children enter through the Clayton Drive entrance then through the main playground where they will be met and escorted to their classes.          Year 1 – children enter through the main entrance then will be met by staff and escorted to their classes.          Reception – children enter at the black gate to the right of the main entrance where they will be met and escorted to their classes.          Key worker and vulnerable children - children enter through the main entrance then through the small side door.</p>

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson  
 Deputy Head: Leona Baffour



<b>I have children in more than one year group. How will I manage pick up and drop off?</b>	Siblings can arrive together at the time of the earliest arriving child. All siblings can leave together at the time of the earliest pick up time.
<b>My child is often distressed in the morning and is normally met by an adult each morning.</b>	If your child is often distressed when separating from you in the mornings, you may need to consider the viability of their return. School staff will not be able to take them from you and will not be able to hold their hand to walk them in, as we would normally do. You will not be able to walk them into the school building yourself. If this is the case for your child, you may want to arrange a phone call with a member of staff to look at how we can best support you and your child.
<b>What should my child wear to school?</b>	Your child must wear different clothes each day. Wearing uniform and/or own clothes is optional. You just need to make sure that different clothes are worn each day. We understand that there may be a mix of uniform and own clothes, but we ask that your child wears clean sensible clothes. Inappropriate clothing will be challenged. Shoulders must be covered and long hair must not cover the face; no large bows are allowed. All footwear must be closed toe shoes; no sandals or flip flops.
<b>What will my child eat for lunch?</b>	There will be no hot dinners. Children will eat a packed lunch each day.
<b>Where will my child eat lunch?</b>	Children will eat in their classrooms within their pod.
<b>Will my child be in a group with their friends?</b>	We do not know exactly who will be attending school, therefore we cannot make attempts to group children into friendship groups. Children with special needs and specific classroom dynamics will be considered when forming the groups.
<b>How will the school manage medication?</b>	If your child has asthma, their pump will be with them in their classroom. If you collected this from school when school closed they must bring their pump with them when they return to school. If your child suffers from hay fever, please give them their hay fever medication before they come to school. Sunscreen should also be applied before children come to school.
<b>What will play times and lunch times be like?</b>	Children will have staggered access to the playground, remaining with their group throughout the day, including break and lunch times. Children will play as children do, however we will do our best to reduce physical contact and instead promote social distancing. There will be no access to climbing apparatus.

<b>Will my child be in a group with their class teacher?</b>	Maybe not. Each year group will be split into groups of 10. Staff from a different year group may be teaching your child.
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<p><b>What is my child allowed to bring to school with them?</b></p>	<p>Water fountains will not be in use. Children must bring a clean labelled plastic bottle of water (must be washed each day), their packed lunch (if not having a school packed lunch). This can all be put into a disposable bag.</p> <p>Children are not allowed to bring pencil cases to school. The school will provide all the stationery needed. Reducing the items that your child brings to school will reduce the chance of transmission.</p> <p>Packed lunches must be provided in either a disposable bag or a hard washable lunch box.</p>
<p><b>I use the breakfast and after school provision. Will it be open?</b></p>	<p>No. It will be closed. Opening this provision will encourage children mixing from different pods/groups. We will review this at the end of the Summer Term.</p>
<p><b>Will my child be able to attend after school clubs?</b></p>	<p>No. We have cancelled after school clubs for the summer term.</p>
<p><b>How will the school guarantee my child is social distancing?</b></p>	<p>We cannot guarantee your child will be social distancing at all times. Even though the government has advised that transitory contact poses low risk, we will take necessary precautions to encourage safe distancing, therefore reducing the possibility of spreading microbes.</p>
<p><b>How will the school ensure that my child's hygiene is a priority?</b></p>	<p>Hygiene will be a priority for children and staff. We have organised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day cleaners who will sanitise the toilets, clean surfaces and door handles, etc during the school day.</li> <li>• There will be enhanced cleaning on Fridays, in addition to evening cleaning.</li> <li>• Children will wash their hands periodically throughout the day, including on arrival, before lunch and before going home.</li> <li>• Classrooms will be stocked with disposable cleaning wipes, tissues, soap and hand sanitizer.</li> <li>• Where safe, windows and doors will be held open to encourage ventilation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How will you stop other children within my child's group from passing on unwanted microbes to my child?</b></p>	<p>We cannot stop this from happening but we will reduce the risk of this happening by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allocating children their own seat and table</li> <li>• allocating children their own set of stationery</li> <li>• ensuring children do not share any items</li> <li>• continually promoting good hygiene - 'catch it, bin it, kill it.'</li> <li>• cleaning shared resources before other groups access them i.e. computers, ipads, playground equipment, etc.</li> <li>• risk assess the use of soft toys and materials</li> <li>• pegs and corridors will not be used for storage.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of your child's possessions will be stored in the allocated space beside their seat in the classroom.</li> </ul>
<b>My child has a mobile phone and needs it as a safety factor when travelling to school and travelling home. Will my child be allowed to bring their mobile phone into school?</b>	No.
<b>My child has been showing signs of anxiety about returning to school. How will my child be supported?</b>	We will offer children emotional support by members of staff. All teachers have been trained in teaching children about identifying and dealing with anxieties. Children will be given the time and space to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Strategies will be promoted in dealing with heightened emotions.
<b>How much contact will I have with my child's class teacher? How will I contact them if I need to speak to them?</b>	We want to prevent, or at the least markedly reduce, face to face contact. To avoid congestion and implement social distancing, pick up and drop off time will be brief. Please call or email the school office to arrange a call back.
<b>Will I be able to speak to the staff in the office?</b>	The office reception area will be closed. You are encouraged to email or call the office.
<b>We normally drop off and pick my child with more than one family member or friend present. Is this still OK to do?</b>	We are asking that only one member of the family at a time is responsible for the school run. This will reduce numbers at the school gate and will help to promote social distancing. Family members could share this responsibility.
<b>Will I be penalised for keeping my child off from school due to anxieties around the coronavirus?</b>	No. We understand that anxieties are high in some families. If you choose to keep your child off from school, please stay committed to this decision until further guidance is issued.
<b>My child will not be attending school. Will the school still provide home learning?</b>	Yes. However, our home learning strategy required a great deal of commitment from class teachers. We will not be able to offer the same level of home learning provision when teachers return to school. Home learning will be the same until all the pods are open. More information will be sent to parents about home learning after that.

I apologise for the length of this correspondence. Even though I have tried to present this communication in small bite size pieces, I realise this is a lot of information to absorb. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email the office

Despite the changes your child will experience - should you choose to send them to school - staff are determined to make their experience a pleasant one. We want children to enjoy school and have fun during these last few weeks of this incredibly unusual term.

We have spent many hours thinking about our partial opening strategy and realise that it is subject to change and review. In the likely event of the Government changing/updating its guidance, as a school we will of course review our approach and keep you informed of changes as soon as possible.

If your child has not been invited into school and you would like any resources such as pencils, pens, paper, books etc... Or if you are having trouble accessing google classrooms please contact the school office and we will do what we can to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and understanding. Going forward it will be a collective effort, from staff and parents/carers, in addressing the varying needs of our young learners at home and in school.

Yours sincerely,



**Ken Johnson**

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