



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)-Potential Reopening Plan-8<sup>th</sup> June**

*These FAQ are primarily for parents of Key Workers and Reception who have been allocated spaces in the event of any potential, partial reopening of the school from June 8<sup>th</sup>. However, the information is useful for all parents and carers to consider what school life will be like in the event of any reopening.*

Several parents have emailed school recently to ask questions about pupils returning to school, mainly prompted by the letter that we sent out recently informing of our proposals to reopen should the decision be made by government on 28<sup>th</sup> May. We appreciate that this is an anxious time for families and especially for your children. We have attempted to answer as many questions as possible in this FAQ document. We will contact you in w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June, once we know the final intention of the government with respect to opening schools, and discuss any next steps with you.

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- 24. Will the school be operating wraparound care?**
- 25. What if the decision is made not to reopen primary schools?**

**1. Will the timings and usual arrangements of the school day be the same?**

School will start at 8.45am and finish at 3:30pm. You may receive a staggered start time before the 8th June so that each bubble can enter the school safely and so that we can avoid groups of people gathering. The staggered starts will be 8.45am, 8.55am and 9.05am. Our collection times will also be staggered and will be 3.10pm, 3.20pm and 3.30pm. You will be informed of which time you will be dropping off and collecting. Only one parent will be allowed to drop off and collect at this time. We will ask parents to leave the school site promptly and not linger. At this time, parents will not be able to come into the school building. We will contact you in w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June, once we know the final intention of the government with respect to opening schools and discuss any next steps with you.

**2. What precautions will school put in place to support social distancing?**

There will be arrows to indicate one way systems for parents and pupils to use when dropping off and picking up. We will also have posters to remind pupils about what they should be doing and where. The school site has been measured to identify maximum potential capacity based on the government guidance of 2m distancing. We will group children into 'bubbles' that do not extend past this maximum and they will remain with the staff members and peers in their bubble throughout each day. Working in this way, we will be able to limit the number of contacts that the children and staff have in a day and also spend time showing the children what to do as well as what we expect to happen during the school day in terms of moving around school whilst observing social distancing and good hygiene habits.

Staff will be maintaining the 2m distancing as much as they are physically able to. Physical contact will not be encouraged and if there are medical needs/personal care, then staff will wear PPE. This is going to be the trickiest part of working with our smallest children as we pride ourselves on our high levels of nurture and pastoral care and support. Working in this way does not mean that staff will be any less caring or nurturing towards your child.

**3. What will the classroom set up be like?**

There will be no more pupils in a room than the maximum occupancy each room will allow (all of our classrooms are different sizes) and the children will be placed into groups. These groups are referred to as 'bubbles' in the guidance we have received. Each pupil will have their own workspace. Classrooms will be set up and arranged in order to observe social distancing rules prior to the children returning and this will also be the case for Reception. We are aware that Reception are used to working in a more free flow, hands on learning capacity and our tasks that we set up and create will have this in mind. All activities set up for children in Reception will be guided and adult led but allow the children to demonstrate independence as we help them begin what life will be like in Year 1 and beyond.

There will be no soft furnishings or universal equipment available for pupils to use as these will be harder to clean on a daily basis. Pupils will not be allowed to bring soft toys into school and pupils will not be able to share equipment. We will also have to restrict the use of books with allocated books being made available and then put away after use to be wiped clean. Please rest assured that our staff are experts at being creative and although certain normal elements of the school day have been altered as a result of Covid-19, we will endeavour to ensure that every minute of every day will be fun, lively and engaging.

**4. Will my child be with their year group?**

At the moment, with the current numbers that we envisage might be attending from 8<sup>th</sup> June we will have 4 Key Worker bubbles which will be grouped in age appropriate groups as best as possible and spread out across the school in classrooms or the hall. For Reception, the children will be split into 3 classrooms (current Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2). All of the spaces will have a designated outdoor space and we will encourage the children to learn outdoors as much as possible. Each of the groups will have a qualified Class Teacher and a Teaching Assistant (these may not be the usual staff that the children are used to working with) with them all day. When arranging the groups, we will pay close attention to ensuring that the children are with friends from their friendship group so that any worries or concerns that they might have can be allayed by being with those they are close to.

**5. What do you envisage a child's classroom experience be like during COVID19?**

We will tailor any group work to address any anxieties that our pupils may have developed as a result of the lockdown. We will ensure that children's pastoral needs are focused upon in the first instance and help transition them back into the classroom first before placing any demand on them in terms of the wider curriculum. All of our lesson planning will promote social distancing but the emphasis will be on the children having a positive, nurturing and welcoming environment to come back to despite the changes.

**6. Will there be any break times or will it be so strict that pupils have to stay in one spot all day?**

Each group will be called a 'bubble'. Break times will still be in place, with each bubble using separate parts of the playground and timings staggered so that groups, or bubbles, do not mix with other groups/bubbles and in this way, we can reduce the risk of spreading any infection.

Pupils will be shown games that they can play safely together whilst observing social distancing rules.

**7. Will there be an opportunity for pupils to go outside at lunchtime?**

Lunches will be eaten in your child's designated learning area. Staff will be with each group and each group will have an assigned Midday Supervisor to be with them over the lunchtime period. There will be an outside lunchtime play but this will be staggered and zoned as per breaktime.

**8. How will toilet breaks be managed?**

Pupils will be shown how to manage social distancing during toilet breaks. Bubbles will have allocated toilets and only 2 pupils to access these at any one time. No one will be restricted from going to the toilet and pupils will be constantly reminded about the importance of hand washing.

**9. Will pupils still get PE sessions?**

Outside activities will have to be carefully planned. Guidelines say that equipment can't be shared and neither could pupils play team games or activities that don't adhere to social distancing. So yes, pupils will be outside but not necessarily exercising together in a way that existed before lockdown.

**10. My child is feeling anxious about returning to school. What can we do to help and what will school do to help?**

Prior to any transition back to school, we will send information home to parents so that they can also help to prepare for a new type of schooling. There will also be activities planned to support emotional well-being and these will be tailored to suit the children's needs. Transition and mental health resources will be sent home in w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June and prior to each new groups of pupils returning to school.

During w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June, we will also send a full virtual tour of what the school will look like once all of the changes have been made to the physical spaces. This will allow you as parents to know what the children will be coming back to and also for the children to see the spaces prior to returning.

Members of staff will continue to be available for parents to contact if further support is needed.

**11. Will my child be comforted if they are upset?**

We will have to find different ways to comfort an upset child in line with the guidance from the DFE. We are unable to say what this would look like at the moment but physical contact is not be encouraged. Of course, reassurance and care will always be our first response and as outlined above, nurture and pastoral support will be our highest priority alongside health and safety. First aid will be administered from an adult in your child's bubble-it may be that the member of staff is wearing PPE in order to administer any first aid.

**12. I am worried about my child and family catching this virus. Do I have to send my child back to school?**

It is your choice whether you send your child back to school during this time. You have to assess where your child would be safest. There are no penalties or unauthorised absences if you do choose to keep your child at home during this pandemic.

**13. Can I change my mind at a later date about sending my child back to school?**

Yes, you can decide to bring your child to school at a later date. We would ask that you contact us if you do change your mind so that we may make the necessary arrangements-there may be a short wait before your

child can then return. If you decide to withdraw your child after returning, please bear in mind that this may be confusing for your child depending upon their age. Your child should attend school for their usual hours or not at all.

**14. If my child doesn't go back to school, will their teacher be able to do some form of online session with those who aren't in school? Will home learning still be available?**

All staff who are able to come into school will be expected to do so from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Teachers will be engaging with the pupils in their care and so will not have the capacity to also provide live online lessons. Some staff are not able to come into school during this pandemic and so they will provide guidance on home learning for the pupils who are not in school at this time. We will continue to use the online learning platforms and add work to parenthub/school website as we have been doing already, adjusting work expectations accordingly. Your child's class teacher will not necessarily be providing this direction, but another teacher will.

You must do what you feel is right for your child(ren) and we will always support you in any way that we can.

**15. What will happen if there is a COVID-19 case in school?**

In the event of a person in school displaying symptoms of the virus, their first duty is to tell someone. We will remove the person, adult or child, from the group as soon as is possible and take them to a designated space away from everyone else. Parents will be informed and support/advice provided on how a test is booked for the person/family concerned. The person will be sent home as soon as possible. If the test is positive, every person in that bubble from school will need to self-isolate at home with the rest of their household and will not be able to return to school until the quarantine period is over. If the test is negative, the person and bubble members may return to school.

Please note that currently test results are taking around five days to be returned. Whilst awaiting the test result, that person should not come back to school until their results are returned to them.

**16. Meals**

We are still providing the food packages for free school meal children who do not return to school and these will continue to be delivered and ready to be collected each Monday. Good Lookin' Cookin' have configured their online platform for parents to order a cold box option, which is essentially a packed lunch, and Reception children will be able to order these for free in line with the Universal Free School Meals they usually access. Parents of Key Worker children will need to also order these meals each week. The deadline for ordering is Thursday of the week before. There will not be an option for any hot school meal at this time. We are asking that children do not bring their own lunchboxes into school. Children should bring a drink bottle to school that they can leave on our premises and this will be washed at the end of every day by school staff and refilled with water the next day.

**17. Will their classroom be deep cleaned before the school commences and then will it be cleaned every break throughout the day?**

In short, yes. We have already organised for extra cleaning. Everyone entering school will be expected to clean their hands without exception. Pupils will be expected to wear clean clothes every day. This does NOT need to be school uniform but should include sensible modest clothing and footwear. The DFE guidance also suggests a clean coat (we suggest a hooded top or a jumper to keep them warm) every day where possible. Hopefully the weather will be kind and reduce the need for coats.

**18. Will the children be able to wear some sort of face protection or PPE?**

The Government have said that PPE is not required in schools unless staff are dealing with a pupil that is showing signs of having the virus or is administering first aid/intimate care on medical grounds. So no, pupils or staff will not be expected to wear PPE unless government guidance changes.

**19. My child has an EHCP and I don't know how being back in school will affect my child.**

If your child has an EHCP, please contact your child's Class Teacher or Mrs Tomlinson, our SENDCo, to discuss any concerns you may have.

**20. Will the school open to other year groups before the end of term?**

Since each classroom can only have a smaller number of pupils, the school will be very full should we return in the capacity outlined. At this moment in time, should the decision be made to reopen primary school by government, we will only be opening for Reception and key worker pupils in the first instance. Should this change, parents will be informed of the changes.

**21. How should we continue to contact school during COVID-19?**

We strongly advise that no one comes to the school office. Parents/visitors will not be allowed into our buildings unless it is a case of emergency. If you need to contact us then please do so by email, or by telephone.

**22. I am a key worker. What is in place for my child?**

Our key worker children remain a priority group as outlined by the DfE and will always be offered priority places over any other group. Key Worker parents were contacted by the school office prior to half term and arrangements were made for w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June. If you had this conversation with the school office and 'booked your child in', then we will expect to see you. If you are a Key Worker and are looking to send your child back to school on 8<sup>th</sup> June should the announcement be made to reopen primary schools, then we ask that children returning on this date come back to school full time.

**23. Is the school considering using any other option for increasing space and capacity within the school, for example the Village Hall etc?**

At this time, we are having to look at every aspect of our current buildings and facilities and ensure that they comply with all aspects of health and safety in order to welcome more groups of children back into school. We know our own buildings best and can make all of the decisions we need in order to satisfy our insurances and risk assessment. We are not looking to utilise other areas within the locality at this moment due to the additional risks this may place on having the children in multiple locations and the increased risks associated with unknown buildings and insurances. We believe that the children will be happiest in their own school environment where they can work in familiar surroundings.

**24. Will the school be operating wraparound care?**

At this time, due to the fact that the children should not come into contact with other bubbles of children, then allowing them to go to a breakfast or after school club will mean that the stringent measures of reducing infection would be compromised. For this reason, we have agreed with Ancaster Village Nursery that wraparound care will not happen at the moment. We will constantly discuss the situation with our wraparound care provider and we will jointly let you know if this decision changes. We apologise for any inconvenience that this might cause.

**25. What if the decision is made not to reopen primary schools?**

Should the government change their position on reopening primary schools, the school will only stay open to Key Worker families and groups outlined by the government (children with a social worker, EHCP). We will continue to operate in the same way that we have been operating since the lockdown began. Children from Reception will not be able to return as outlined until we are told of a new date. Key Worker families would not have to send their children back full time as the school would have more space to accommodate key worker groups. If the decision is made not to reopen, we will communicate with you as soon as we possibly can to clarify what will be happening.

**Mental well-being links**

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-your-child-is-anxious-about-going-back-to-school/>

<https://rockitmama.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/How-to-Foster-Your-Childs-1-1-683x1024.png>

**Transition links**

<https://www.abc.net.au/life/helping-kids-with-the-transition-back-to-school/12247052>