



Ancaster  
Church of England Primary School  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the government have signalled their intention for schools to begin planning for a full reopening of schools in September to coincide with the new academic year. Guidance was published last week and we have been dissecting every element to ensure that the plans we make safeguard the health and safety of our children and staff every day. We are not yet at the point in which all of these plans have been finalised and whilst we cannot share all of the details of what September will look like, I wanted to write to you to let you know a few of the plans that have been decided to help you with your preparation for the new academic year.

As we approach the end of the academic year, the first important point that parents should note is that when we close for the traditional summer break on 21<sup>st</sup> July, school will close fully until September. The school **will not** remain open for Key Workers or any other groups and this decision has been made for all schools by the Department for Education. We are very proud of our response during this crisis to ensure that the children and families who have needed us have been able to access high quality learning provision but I welcome the decision to close as I feel everyone (children and staff) will need quality time now that the world is opening back up, to enjoy and explore places and be together outside of the family home.

For the children who have returned to school already, they have witnessed the school's application of the current guidance first hand whereas many children and families will have only heard about how different our school has been during this challenging time. The new guidance for September allows for much more flexibility in terms of group sizes, resources and social distancing. With this in mind, we are delighted that we are now planning for the full reopening of our school as we simply cannot wait to be back together as a school family. Below is a series of bullet points that will give you some indication of what to expect and to allow you to begin your own planning.

- We are intending for our new classroom to be open by September which means all of our children will be in classes of up to 30 children in separate year groups (no more morning/afternoon classes in Key Stage 2)-we will treat each of the year groups as 'bubbles'.
- The bubbles will be educated separately from other bubbles and there will not be a sharing of resources between them nor will they come into contact with each other.
- Staffing within the bubble will remain consistent with the usual staff members largely remaining within their bubble. In order to ensure that our core business of teaching and learning can be delivered, staff are able to move between bubbles in September and this will happen as often as is needed to provide release time for staff as well as when there is a need to cover a class due to staff sickness. The guidance states that staff should try and remain up to 2m from children as much as possible-staff will use their discretion to ensure that children receive the nurture and care they need in order to feel as comfortable and happy throughout the day.
- We will be unable to hold Collective Worship in the traditional sense and all of our whole school worships will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams with them being accessed by the pupils in class.
- We have been operating a relaxed school uniform policy during recent weeks but in September, we will insist on a return to full school uniform expectations every day, including the need for PE kit.
- The Department for Education have been explicit that all children must return to school in September bringing an end to parents temporarily having the right to choose if their child is in school or not. In September, we want to work with every family to ensure that all of our children are back in school learning, every day.

Ancaster Church of England Primary School  
Mercia Drive Grantham NG32 3QQ

Tel: 01400 230871 Email: [enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk) Web: [www.ancasterprimary.org.uk](http://www.ancasterprimary.org.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr Sam Eden



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- We have been unable to serve 'hot school meals' as the logistical arrangements surrounding this has meant that safety could be compromised. We have mitigated these risks by working with our hot school meals provider, Good Lookin' Cookin' to ensure that children have the option of receiving a 'cold' option (essentially a pack up). Considering the guidance for September, we are unable to move back to a hot meal option and we will continue to ask Good Lookin' Cookin' to offer the cold options. They will be available to book in advance and continue to be free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as those children entitled to Free School Meals.
- We know that one of the most congested points in the school day is the beginning and end of the day where all of the children and their parents are together meaning there can be up to 400 people on site at any one time. During our partial reopening, we introduced staggered start and end times to the school day to limit the number of people on site at any one time. Whilst this has been successful, in September when we have three times as many pupils, we will need to revise how this works. We will be implementing a system that means the start/end time will be linked to a family surname. For instance, a family with a surname beginning A-E might arrive in school at 8.45am and leave at 3.10pm whereas a family with a surname beginning F-M might arrive in school at 8.55am and leave at 3.20pm. We will write to each family to make you aware of your individual start/end time in due course.
- We will still insist on social distancing measures and this means that visitors to the school continue to be restricted in order to minimise the spread of infection.
- We will continue to be rigorous in our approach to handwashing and cleanliness/hygiene with measures now established in our daily routines to ensure that everyone cleans their hands regularly and properly.
- On our return to school in September, one of the first tasks will be to ascertain the gaps in the children's knowledge, skills and understanding from the point in which the lockdown was imposed. We will then use all of the information to implement a catch-up plan for each child which will allow them to fill any gaps that may have arisen due to lost learning as a result of the pandemic whilst accessing the curriculum entitlement for their age related curriculum. Initially, much of our curriculum will centre around the children's social, emotional and mental health development in order to recognise that we will need a period of readjustment and reconnection with each other and the formal basis of school.
- Where there may be suspected/confirmed cases of Covid-19, we will have strict processes and protocols in place and more about how these will work will be published for you in due course.

Finally, one of the elements that we do not yet have an answer to provide to parents is about wraparound care. We will be scheduling a meeting with Ancaster Village Nursery to discuss the finer details of how this could look on our return and as soon as we have any more information, we will be in touch to keep you informed.

I do hope that this communication finds you all well. I am truly missing all of the usual treats that the summer term offers which allow us to interact with you all and look forward to the day when an event such as Sports Morning and Summer Fayre do not cause a logistical headache and we can all be together again-it certainly feels as though that day is edging closer and closer. Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Sam Eden  
Headteacher

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