

5th June 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

COVID-19 Update

I am writing to update you regarding our plans for wider re-opening. Staff have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare the school to welcome back as many children and young people as can be safely cared for. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your patience and support.

I am pleased to say that we have now completed our risk assessments and have a plan that will enable us to gradually increase the number of children attending the school, while still maintaining a high level of safety for pupils, staff and their families.

We will be continuing to offer our interactive sessions through Google Classroom as well as continuing to upload learning activities on Evidence for Learning [EFL] for those pupils remaining at home. These are suggestions and ideas to help you and your child during these unprecedented and challenging times, please only use them if you find them useful.

Children and young adults, or those they live with, who are in the clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable group should continue to stay at home, as this remains the safest place for them.

Our individual pupil risk assessments have allowed us to determine whether we can accommodate each pupil with an acceptable reduction of risk.

What will happen:

- Small 'bubbles' of staff and pupils will return to school on a part time basis of 3 hours at the time on certain days of the week. This part time schedule will allow more pupils to access the provision and maintain a safe environment for everyone. We will continuously assess this situation and we hope that the numbers we can accommodate will increase over time. Any decision made will be based on Government advice and our own assessments of the provision we can safely offer within school.
- Bubbles will have a maximum of 5 pupils and 3 adults at any one time. Where possible the pupils and staff in the bubbles will stay the same to reduce the risk of transmission.
- The bubbles will have 1 classroom, an allocated outside area and use of a designated toilet, pupils and staff will not move around school freely.
- No items from home will be allowed, including bags. Children will be asked to bring only their own water bottle that will stay on school premises and will be cleaned daily. Cold snacks will be provided.



- There will be PPE (apron, mask and gloves) available for staff to use, staff may choose to wear PPE throughout the day.
- No students requiring intimate care will be admitted at this moment.
- The number of 'bubbles' in school will increase gradually over time, providing it is assessed as safe to do so.
- We will let families know if we are able to offer a part time place in a bubble the week before the placement is available. We will give as much notice as possible.
- The times of arrivals and departures will be staggered for each 'bubble'.
- Pupils will eat all snacks in their allocated classrooms maintaining social distancing.
- If any pupil displays behaviours that may put themselves, other pupils or staff at risk e.g. biting, spitting, scratching they may need to be sent home (this will form part of their risk assessment).
- Children are to wear loose clothing in the form of trousers and T-shirts. No uniform is required. Please reassure all clothing is removed once your child arrives home and washed daily as per government advice.
- Pupils will have their temperatures taken when they arrive on site and be supported to wash their hands on arrival and when leaving.
- If any pupil is suspected of displaying symptoms, they will be isolated in a medical room, and parents called. The child will need to be collected immediately and parents/ carers will be advised to test their child in line with Government guidelines.
- No visitors will be allowed on site. Parents and transport staff must not enter the school premises at any time and must maintain social distancing at drop off and pick up.

It is important to note that:

- We cannot guarantee that other pupils will always keep a social distance from your child or young adult. Most of our pupils are unable to understand or comply with social distancing and are naturally social and gravitate towards each other and staff.
- We cannot eliminate the possibility that your child or young adult may be exposed to the virus at school.
- The current government guidelines do not require your child/young adult to return to school and we fully understand if you do not wish to take up any offer that you may be given.
- You will not be fined if you choose not to send your child or young adult back to school

Myself and my staff continue to wish, more than anything, for everyone to be back in school, however, this will only happen when it is safe to do so and following the guidance given by our government, our Trust and the Local Authority.

Thank you for working in partnership with the school through this difficult time. Our highest priority is maintaining the highest possible level of safety for pupils, parents and staff.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Bickmore
Headteacher