



22 May, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update Letter – Partial Re-opening

I trust you and your families are in good spirits. I hope I can explain clearly the plans we have for potential re-opening. Trying to explain all of this to you will take a while, so the highlights are here and further details follow.

As you may be aware, the guidance is shifting (daily!) so everything in this letter is **our intention**. Things may change.

Key points:

- We are following all Government and Local Authority (LA) guidance.
- However, the government are updating advice and lockdown on 28th/29th May. Everything could change. **Below is our aim, and it is not final.**
- Extensive risk assessments have been completed and are being verified by the Local Authority.
- We are completely closed to all children on Monday 1st June; the LA has called a 'reset' day in preparation for wider opening. **Again, this date could change.**
- **Half term:**
- We are open to NHS and emergency services workers ONLY (Tue-Fri).
- We are closed for the bank holiday, Monday 25th May 2020 for everyone.
- **Intent from Tuesday 2nd June onwards if safe to do so and if the government announcement on the 28th/29th May allows us to:**
- We intend to be open every day to all keyworker children. If you need a place you MUST get in contact with us as soon as you can. Those already in do not need to get in touch.
- Keyworker families that have not yet attended will need to book in with us.
- Places will be given NHS and emergency worker children who require them.
- We will be open from 08:30 to 15:15 every day.
- Guidance from the DfE and LA restricts our class sizes to **10 (Ten)**.
- We intend to open to **reception class children** as well as keyworker children from 2nd June 2020.
- We will be closed to all other children and will continue online home learning for all of them (including reception children still at home).
- If we can expand opening to other year groups, we will let you know.
- This will definitely not be possible before Monday 8th June and is **highly unlikely** unless the current guidelines change.
- As we are limited to 10 children per class, our absolute maximum capacity is 150 children. With keyworkers and reception classes, we expect to be near to this limit immediately.

Further details:

I am sharing all of the below with you so that you have confidence in the school. We want to assure you that we are taking the care of your children, yourselves and our staff. We want to be transparent and tell you everything we can. Not everyone will want to read everything.

Parental Survey:

Thank you! Over 400 of you took part in the survey. I hope just about every question asked is answered in these pages.

The average across all years was 64% of parents saying 'yes' they would return their children to school if offered a place. Generally, older year groups were higher, with 70% in year 6 and younger groups lower (nearer 50%).

However, lots of parents said in the comments section that they had questions about any return, so lots of parents said "yes... if...".

Keyworkers – booking a place:

If you are already attending, please speak to us. If you believe you or your families are in the keyworker categories, particularly if you have not been in contact yet or if your children have not yet attended, please get in touch urgently (email preferred, but phone is fine). Priority will be given to NHS and emergency workers' children.

Class size limits:

The DFE have said the maximum class size is 15, but this includes secondary and primary children and does not account for classroom size. The Local Authority risk assessments strictly limit our maximum class size to 10.

Pods and the rationale:

A pod is a new class of children.

Children will be allocated to a class pod and this will never change. The rationale for this is to limit spread. As much as possible, pods will not cross or contact each other.

As much as possible, individual teachers and support staff will support a given pod. This means:

- Children might not be with their regular teacher.
- Children might not be with their friends.
- We will aim for pods to be created with children in the same year group, but especially for keyworker children, this is not always going to be possible.
- Some teachers will have to cross pods occasionally (e.g. sickness cover), and some staff are part time, so some pods may see multiple staff.
- Reception children who are also keyworkers will be in 'reception class' pods.
- Nursery/playgroup (keyworker) children may join reception pods depending on numbers.

So, classes will come in, be slotted into their pod (class) and then taught for the day. Children will stay in this pod during break and lunch.

Likelihood of further expansion and opening:

As you can hopefully calculate, if the current keyworker list and reception classes come in, we are full with classes of 10 children and have no capacity for further opening. We are concerned we will have to prioritise keyworker groups and even then might not be able to meet all of your requests. That said, we aim to provide for other year groups.

If attendance is low and stays low, or if guidance changes, we may be able to expand opening to other year groups. We will follow the guidance in any case.

Attendance:

All children offered a place will be offered a full time (5 day a week) place. It is your decision whether to send your child in (or not) on a given day. This is because once pods of ten are set, there is no cross-over. This is also because we want to help parents work. While attendance will be tracked and we encourage excellent attendance, there is no penalty system for poor attendance (e.g. fines are suspended).

Curriculum:

For all children in school, we will try to follow a core curriculum where we can, but this will not always be the case. SEND interventions and visits are not happening at present. For reception children, some phonics and mathematics will be taught every day, but there will also be a lot of play-based learning, social support and art based activity. Outdoor education and physical activity will be increased – even more than usual.

Equipment:

As a general rule, children should not bring the minimum to and from school. Pens, pencils, etc., will be provided at school. They may bring spare clothing / changes of shoes.

Lunchtimes / breaks / snacks:

We are still in discussions with our catering team to re-open with hot meals. As a school we believe this is morally right to provide hot lunches. At the moment, this is proving a challenge.

For the moment, please bring in a packed lunch and healthy snacks for your child. As soon as we can provide lunches (even sandwich lunches) we will.

All lunchtimes and breaktimes will be staggered so children are playing in large, zoned areas in their own pod.

Health and Safety:

Obviously, we are following all guidance. Cleaning regimes have been increased and we are using slightly stronger disinfectant chemicals than would usually be the case. We have bought a “fogging” machine, that pumps an anti-viral and anti-bacterial mist into the classroom, which settles and disinfects the whole area, including nooks and crannies! That will help us to effectively ‘deep clean’ classrooms every week.

Our cleaners have worked every weekday since February.

We have plenty of cleaning products, sanitiser and other such products and we are keeping a close eye on stock levels.

Most corridors will be one way to help with social distancing.

Classrooms:

Pods will be allocated a classroom. Where possible, this will be age-appropriate (i.e. year 2 children in year 2 classrooms).

Reception class “pods” will be in :

REW, the middle reception room, RDJ, nursery and Ravenclub (as we obviously need six rooms for the six pods of reception children.).

Keyworker children will be spread across years 1,2,4,5,6, as year 3 classrooms are smaller so will be utilised last.

Entrance and Exit:

Like a supermarket, from 2nd June there will be additional one-way entrance and exit systems. Parents are not permitted in the building (sorry!) but please do come and have a chat to us from a distance! If you need a private conversation, the telephone might be best.

Opening times:

You can ‘informally enter’, as usual, from 08:30am to 09:00. We have noticed a growing number of children arriving late – please do not.

School will close at 15:15 (pm) from Tuesday 2nd June onwards.

No breakfast club or Ravenclub will be offered (as we cannot maintain the “pod” guidelines if we bring children together from different pods after school).

Uniform:

School uniform is expected for those attending. Trainers are permitted, but we would still like to see some shoes!

No Bikes and Scooters:

From Tuesday 2nd June, we will ask children to keep bikes and scooters at home. You are still welcome to ride/scoot to school – that would be great – but you will need to lock your bikes up on the bike racks near the year 4 classrooms.

Siblings:

There are no current plans to permit siblings into school at present.

What do to if you get symptoms:

If you or your children get symptoms, please self-isolate.

If your child shows symptoms at school, your child will be isolated outdoors under shelter if it is warm enough to do so. (i.e, they’ll sit in the rotunda, outside, comfortably).

If the weather is bad, we will isolate them indoors.

Your child will be sent home immediately and we will ask you to self-isolate for the prescribed period, following the guidelines.

Final note:

We will write to you on 28/29 May to confirm if we are allowed to open. Depending on LA, union and government advice, we may even have to change things on 1st June 2020. Please be prepared for this.

Things to do:

- Reception parents: please contact us urgently if you intend to send your child into school.
- Keep up to date with government advice.
- Keep encouraging your child to continue with home learning - you are doing a brilliant job of this.
- If you are a key worker and your child does not attend at the moment but you need a place CONTACT SCHOOL as soon as possible.

Mr Matthews and Mrs Stanley.

