

Friday 5th June

Dear Parents,

Happy June everyone!

A time of reflection and looking forward

On the home page of the school website, you will find all the correspondence that has been sent out since March and what a lot there is! The latest letter explains the school's offer since 1st June and the safety measures put in to place to minimise transmission of the virus. You will also find an up to date risk assessment on the website. The information in the risk assessment has informed the level of provision the school is able to offer in order to keep everybody safe. After all, we do still have a pandemic to fight, and the fight still goes on.

We have completed the first week of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returning to school and we have been exceptionally lucky that we have been able to bring all these groups back at the same time. It has been so lovely to see the children after so long. A school needs children to make it a place of happiness and laughter.

There are some questions that have come up this week, and I am sure there will be more as time goes on. I hope to answer them when we can and as new questions arise.

Does the school have a maximum capacity?

Yes, based on the space in the rooms to ensure safe social distancing and the number of staff to be assigned to each space, we will reach a capacity. Once the capacity for each room has been reached, we will be unable to take any more children. If we have to take in even more critical and vulnerable children over the next few weeks, we may have to explore the possibility of a rota system for the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children.

Do I have to send my children to school if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6?

No, you don't and the school will support your decision. We will endeavour to do the best we can to support the children' learning at home.

What if a member of staff shows symptoms and has to self-isolate?

If a member of staff assigned to a group shows symptoms, they will be sent to have a test. The group will be closed until we know whether that test is positive or negative. If it is negative, then normal practice resumes. If it is positive, the whole group will have to self-isolate for 14 days.

If a member of staff has to self-isolate for 14 days, due to a member of their household testing positive, then we will do all we can to cover the class with any existing staff. If we cannot safely do this, then the group will be closed until the member of staff can return.

What if a child shows symptoms?

We will isolate the child with symptoms and contact parents to collect. All parents of children within the group will also be contacted to collect their children. The child displaying symptoms will then need to be tested. The group will be closed until we know it is a positive or negative result. If the child tests negative, the group can resume. If the child tests positive, the groups will be closed and will have to follow the guidance for self-isolation.

When an adult or a child in school shows symptoms, the school has to contact Public Health England, who will provide further guidance.

Critical Workers

The government closed schools in March 2020 except for critical and vulnerable children. The government provided a list of workers that were critical to the covid response e.g. NHS staff, educational and child care, key public services amongst other. The critical worker list remains unchanged and remains available. This information is available on the homepage of the school website.

The government guidance says - you should go to work if you cannot work from home and your business has not been required to close by law.

Any requests for places will be dealt with within three working days from when we receive the completed request paperwork. Children of critical workers will be placed in an existing group which has spaces; this is highly likely to be with different year groups.

Through answering these questions, it is apparent that these are unpredictable and changeable circumstances. Nothing is for certain at the moment. It will be disruptive to all if a group has to close due to coronavirus or we have to change groups to a rota system, but ultimately we want to support and protect everyone, and minimise the risk.

Minimising Risk

In order to support the school in minimising risk, there is an expectation that the social distancing rules are followed outside of school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

Coronavirus symptoms

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- If symptoms are mild, advised to not leave home for at least 7 days.
- Anyone in the household should not leave home for 14 days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If a child becomes unwell

If a child becomes unwell – new cough or temperature, loss of smell/taste:

- Move to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door
- Window open for ventilation
- Cubby will be a zone
- If no room – move to an area which is 2m away from others
- Compound will be a zone if weather is dry
- If the need to use the toilet – a separate bathroom if possible – accessible loo – cleaned afterwards
- PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if:
 - Personal care is needed and a distance of 2m cannot be maintained – e.g. a child with complex needs
- Call 999 if they are seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk
- If a member of staff has helped someone who is unwell, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves
- A child or adult develops symptoms – should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days
- Household members should isolate for 14 days
- Testing to be booked

Testing for adults and children

- School staff (and their families) can apply to be tested if they are showing symptoms, through the government portal
- Where the test is negative – they can return
- Where the test is positive, the rest of the group should be sent home and told to self-isolate.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Shielding - for children

- Clinically extremely vulnerable children who have a pre-existing medical condition, who have been told to shield, will not be attending school
- Clinically vulnerable children who are considered to be a higher risk should follow medical advice

Shielding – for adults

- **Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals** are advised not to work outside the home. We are strongly advising people, including education staff, who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those with serious underlying health conditions which put them at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus and have been advised by their clinician or through a letter) to rigorously follow shielding measures in order to keep themselves safe. Staff in this position are advised not to attend work.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- **Clinically vulnerable individuals** who are at higher risk of severe illness (for example, people with some pre-existing conditions as set out in the <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying->

[alert-and-safe-social-distancing](#) guidance) have been advised to take extra care in observing social distancing and should work from home where possible. This includes pregnant women. Education and childcare settings should endeavour to support this, for example by asking staff to support remote education, carry out lesson planning or other roles which can be done from home. If clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) individuals cannot work from home, they should be offered the safest available on-site roles, staying 2 metres away from others.

Thank you everyone for following the safety measures the school has put in place and for working so closely with us and making this week work; it made for a smooth transition! It is much appreciated and we must remember to continue with these measures until we are given guidance that they can change.

Thanks for all your supportive messages too!

Hello and a big wave to the children and families at home. We hope this week has worked well at home too. We will continue to send home learning out on a Friday afternoon which is also used in school. We are just reviewing and re-jiggling the contact tree, so do expect a call from a member of staff. The purpose of this call is to speak with the children primarily, but we know some children find this a bit tricky, so it is ok to have an adult conversation.

The government has produced a wealth of supporting materials for families at home so please follow this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources?utm_source=1d68c97a-28cd-4f9e-8e3d-54a9f44e6d60&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Speak soon everyone.

Best wishes,

Zoe