

Whixall C.E. Primary School and Nursery

Brownsbrook
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Nr Whitchurch
Shropshire

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Part of
Fields Multi Academy Trust

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Executive Headteacher:
Miss N Brayford

19th May 2020

Dear Parents,

We are writing to provide you with details and information about our plans to re-open Whixall CE Primary School on 1st June.

The Government wants to get all children back into school as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because of the importance of social interactions with their peers and teachers. We would like nothing more than to see the children back, however, fully appreciate that this is a worrying time for everyone and it is vital that you have detailed information regarding how school will operate when we re-open so that you feel reassured and fully informed.

If the Government' advice is to reopen on 1st June we will be reopening for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as well as for the children of critical workers and invited children.

The Government have been clear that the younger children have been chosen because early education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and supports children's social and emotional development. Year 6 are finishing Key Stage 2 and will benefit hugely from time with their friends and teachers to ensure that they are ready. The Government states that their ambition is to bring all year groups back for a month before the end of the summer term, but this is being kept under review and may be subject to change.

Provision **will remain in place with no change** for children of Key Workers and invited children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 during this period of phased re-opening.

KEY POINTS ABOUT PHASED RE-OPENING:

Who is eligible to come to school?

- Eligible children are those in EYFS, Year 1 and 6. They are strongly encouraged to attend, unless there are shielding concerns for the child or their household.
- Children of Key Workers and invited children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to book in as they have been over the past few weeks.
- We **cannot** offer places to siblings of EYFS, Year 1 and 6 children who are not vulnerable or children of Key Workers.

Which eligible children SHOULD NOT come into school?

- Children who are classed as "[clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#)" (Click [HERE](#) for the list) have been advised to shield and remain at home. Home learning will continue for these children.

- Children who are classed as “*clinically vulnerable*” (Click [HERE](#) for the list) are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category; parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.
- A child who lives with someone who is “*clinically vulnerable*”, including those who are pregnant, **can** attend school.
- A child who lives with someone who is “*clinically extremely vulnerable*” is only advised to attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to. This may not be possible for young children.
- Children should not attend school if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household. If a child or members of their household show symptoms, they will be eligible for a test.

Do I have to send my child into school?

- Any parents who decide not to send their children to school at this time will **not** be penalised or fined by the Local Authority.
- If your eligible child remains at home, home learning using Seesaw will continue.
- Home learning via Seesaw will also continue for all children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5, including those attending as Key Workers’ children.

In preparation for the potential re-opening on 1st June, we have created a robust risk assessment, based on the detailed Government guidance, which was sent to all Head teachers last week. This risk assessment has been shared with all school staff and preparations are now underway for 1st June. We will do everything that we can to ensure that the site is as safe as possible. Below are details about how this will be achieved:

Minimising contact and mixing

- All classes will be in small groups.
- These children will remain together at all times and will not be allowed to mix with other children in school, thus reducing social contact.
- One teacher will be allocated to each group of children, we will also have a ‘floating’ member of staff who will assist with break times/first aid and ensuring that main contact points within school are thoroughly cleaned during the course of each day.
- During lunch, the children will play together in their small groups in an allocated area and those children having either school meals or packed lunches will eat at their ‘workstations’.
- Classrooms will be reorganised with tables spaced out and 1 child will sit per table. A seating plan will ensure that children sit at the same desk each day. EYFS children will sit on ‘designated spots’ when sitting is necessary.
- The guidance makes it clear that primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. Our focus, therefore, will be on limiting social contact and mixing by keeping the children in their small groups at all times.
- Nursery children should only attend school on their designated days.
- If children who are eligible to be in school, have a medical appointment during the school day please try to rearrange – if this is not possible then please do not send your child into school on the day of their appointment.

In order to minimise social contact, we will not be able to run Breakfast Club at this time. Clubs will not run either, however if due to work commitments an early drop off and late collection is essential then please either telephone school (01948 880330) or e-mail admin@whixall.shropshire.sch.uk. We apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause and will let you know when we are able to get these activities back up and running. Trips, visits and private music tuition as well as Forest School will also not run at this time.

Social distancing at drop off and pick up times

- In order to maintain social distancing between the adults at the beginning and end of the day, staggered drop off and pick up times will operate.

Year 6 will start school at 8.50 a.m. until 3.10 p.m.

Reception/Year 1 will start school at 9.00 a.m. and will finish at 3.15 p.m.

Nursery will start school at 9.15 a.m. and will finish at 3.00 p.m.

Children of critical workers will start school at 8.45 a.m. and will finish at 3.10 p.m. (please note that the children of critical workers should only attend school on the days when parents are working).

All children will enter school via the gate at the top of the layby – we ask that parents drive their car to the gate and then hand their child over to the member of staff who will be on duty. If at all possible will parents please remain in their cars while dropping off (we do understand that this may be difficult with very young children.) Collection will be from the same gate and we will release children to their families one at a time. If there is more than one child within a family we will contact you to arrange how best to collect your children. Please note that the gate will remain locked until 8.45 a.m. and no early drop off will be allowed. We respectfully ask that everyone is on time for school and is prompt when collecting.

At the end of the day

- We would appreciate everyone's support in ensuring social distancing in everyday lives in order to keep our children and staff safe.
- We ask you to ensure that only **one adult** drops off/collects to reduce the number of adults in the area of school.
- We ask that you **do not enter** the school building, but contact the office/class teacher via the admin email account or telephone.

Visitors

- There will be no visitors in school except where this is essential for statutory Health and Safety reasons. We ask that any contact is via telephone and email.

Symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **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 have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

If your child or anyone in your house develops any of these symptoms then please do not send your child into school but dial 111 and ask for their advice. Please keep us informed about the advice you have been given.

Organisation

Children will be taught in their own classrooms:
Key worker children will be taught in Mayfly Class.

Cleaning

- Most of the school has already been deep cleaned and the remainder will be cleaned over half term. Once the children return on 1st June, cleaning will take place every morning and lunchtime and evening, with a focus on all contact points as well as other times of the day when needed.

Equipment in school and on the playground

- Use of equipment will be limited in school. Any shared equipment that is in use will be cleaned afterwards.
- We will ask children to bring their own water bottle to avoid sharing resources with each other.
- Children will be given their own stationery to use.
- Each child will keep all of their books, resources and water bottle on their table.
- Children will not be bringing reading books home from school and we ask that children do not bring anything into school from home.

Some equipment and resources will be removed from classrooms (e.g. any resources/toys that are difficult to clean and soft furnishings). The children will not be allowed to use certain equipment, such as the outdoor play equipment, musical instruments and PE equipment. We will encourage as much outdoor learning as possible and ensure that classrooms are well ventilated.

Uniform

- Children are to wear their school uniforms. We feel that this will add a sense of normality. PE kits will not be required.
- Children should only wear plain studs – no other jewellery will be permitted at this time.

Hand washing and good hygiene practices

- All staff and children entering the building will need to wash their hands upon arrival and at regular intervals throughout the day, thoroughly for at least 20 seconds and they will be supervised.
- We will promote the “catch it, bin it, kill it” slogan with the children. There will be a plentiful supply of tissues in school.

Curriculum

- At this time, we may not be able to run a full curriculum as we normally do because of the constraints put upon us. However, we will do our absolute best to ensure that our curriculum is as broad and balanced as it can be.
- There will be a strong focus on PSHE and on the wellbeing of our children as we know that some children will feel anxious about returning to school and will have been affected by the school closure.
- We will endeavour to use the outdoor areas as much as possible, making learning fun and creative as we always do.

Most importantly, the children will be able to, once again, experience a sense of normality and mix with their peers and teachers, something which we know many of them have missed so much.

If you would like to view the Government guidance for further details, please click on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-preparefor-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

The Government has also released some guidance to parents and carers, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-informationfor-parents-and-carers>

We fully appreciate the concerns that some parents with children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 may have about the planned re-opening of school. It would be wrong of me to say that we can eliminate all risks because we cannot. However, we are working as hard as we possibly can to ensure that school is as safe as it can be ready for 1st June and we are very much looking forward to welcoming more children back to school.

Please bear in mind that this is only a plan based on the guidance that we have received so far and it will, no doubt, evolve and change over time as the situation progresses. We will endeavour to update you with any changes if and when they happen.

We appreciate that this is a lot of information to digest so please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarification or have any questions. Please e-mail admin@whixall.shropshire.sch.uk or telephone 01948 880330 before the 1st June.

We are sure that you realise how much planning and preparation is going in to school returning, it is really important that we know how many children we will have in school on 1st June with as much notice as possible so we would be grateful if you would let us know if your child will be returning or if you think your child will be returning by e-mailing admin@whixall.shropshire.sch.uk or by telephoning 01948 880330-if you have already notified us that your child will be returning to school then there

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for your support during this period.

In addition I am sure that you will join with me in saying a huge thank you to our staff for the amazing job that they are doing during these very unusual times.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Brayford
Headteacher