

Dear Parents,

Following the Government announcement today we are writing to inform you that the Trustees of Fields Multi Academy Trust have decided to follow the Government advice and open school to the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as well as the children of critical workers and vulnerable families from Monday 1st June.

A great deal of work has gone into the preparation for reopening and we are confident that we have thoroughly assessed the risks associated with reopening and that measures are in place to ensure that the children and staff will be safe.

These measures include:

Minimising contact and mixing

- All classes will be in small groups of no more than 10 children.
- 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 group in an allocated area, all children will eat their lunch at their 'workstations' or outside in an allocated area if the weather allows.
- 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.
- 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. Extra-curricular clubs will not run either. 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 will also not run at this time.

Due to the low numbers of children who will be at school, school meals will be available however we are only able to offer sandwiches. If your child requires a lunch from the kitchen, they will order in the usual way. Children in reception and Year 1 will still qualify for Universal Free School Meals.

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.
- 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 parents near the school site.

- We ask that you **do not enter** the school building, but contact the office/class teacher via email 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. If a child displays possible symptoms in school, then they will be immediately isolated from their group and parents will be requested to collect their child.

Organisation

To help with social distancing we will be introducing staggered start and collection times from 1st June.

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).

Cleaning

- All areas of school have been deep cleaned. Once the children return on 1st June, cleaning will take place every morning and every 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, sun hat and sun cream (sun hat and sun cream to remain in school please). **Can we ask that a high factor sun cream is applied before the children leave home please.**
- 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 assess the children when they return and ensure that the key areas are focused upon so that we can provide the most appropriate curriculum for them.
- 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>

Please bear in mind that our procedures will be reviewed on a daily basis and may 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.

It is really important that we know which children will be joining us on Monday morning therefore if you change your decision regarding your child attending school before Monday then please e-mail head@whixall.shropshire.sch.uk

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

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
Executive Headteacher