



St Paul's C of E Junior School

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19 May, 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: Possible Reopening of Schools

Thank you to all those of you who have responded to the survey. The possible phased return of pupils has provoked a lot of discussion and we are all waiting for final confirmation from the government that the infection statistics will support schools reopening. It seems likely that the next announcement will be on Thursday 28th May.

We are still in the throes of planning and have a considerable number of questions. What we can say at this stage is:

1. We will not reopen until the risk assessments and plans for our school determine it is right and safe for us to do so.
2. We know that some staff will be prevented from returning as they fall within the critically extremely vulnerable group and have been issued with medical advice to remain at home.
3. Social distancing has been acknowledged as unworkable for very young children but as a junior school, adhering to the 2m rule will pose far less problematic and something that all pupils and staff will adhere.
4. School will undergo another deep clean over half term.
5. If we have sufficient staff available to reopen following the government's next announcement, we will spend two days on training staff on the measures that will be in place to try and safeguard the children and staff who will be returning.
6. Even if we are unable to open as planned, we will continue to remain open to children of those keyworkers already attending. Provision for these children will continue to run in the same way it has since 20th March.
7. The safety of the staff and children is paramount and the measures we will have in place will mean that coming to school will in no way resemble what the children know and are used to.

Planning for a phased reopening during a pandemic, with appropriate safeguarding measures in place for pupils and staff is an extremely complex process, particularly in light of the significant amount of advice and guidance from the government, local authority and other professional bodies. We are systematically working our way through all of this within the context of our school and although at this time our draft plan is just that, a draft which might be subject to some significant changes, we have tried to answer your questions as best we can based on what we know at the time of writing.



Will it be safe for my child to return to school?

We will implement the Government's hierarchy of measures but there is no certainty that these will guarantee the safety of pupils or staff.

My child is in Year 6 but what if I don't want them to come back?

Government advice is that if you decide this is not the right time for your child to return, you will not be penalised for keeping them at home. Should this change, we will let you know.

Will the children be able to spend time with their friends?

The children will be organised into small groups, the exact size of which will be determined by the number returning, the available space in each room, and the number of staff who are able to return. Groups will be as small as possible. If the majority of Y6 pupils return, there will be a group situated in every classroom across the site.

No groups will be permitted to mix with any other, including break and lunch. These will be staggered, as will the arrival and departure of each group at the start and end of school.

Groupings will be alphabetical, using our normal registers to ensure every child will be with at least some of their classmates.

Groups will be based in their allocated classroom for the vast majority of the time.

Will my child be taught by his teacher?

With potentially up to 96 Year 6 pupils returning, few will be taught by their teacher or based in their normal classroom.

What safety measures will be in place?

- *Each child will have a designated table and tray for their sole use. We will ask they each bring a pencil case, containing a pencil, pencil crayons, glue stick, scissors and a pencil sharpener. This will remain in school. We will provide items, such as white-boards and pens. Pupils will not be permitted to share any equipment. If parents are unable to provide any of these items, we will be able to do so.*
- *Each pupil will also need to bring a water bottle and a reading book. It will not be possible for school books to be taken home.*
- *Each group will have a designated set of toilets which pupils will visit one at a time. These will be cleaned during and after the school day.*
- *Lockers will not be in use and coats will be stored on the back of chairs.*
- *As pencil cases are to remain in school, there should be no need for pupils to bring anything other than a water bottle and reading book to school. We will ask for bags to be left at home.*
- *It will be up to parents to decide what their child wears to school but we will request pupils wear a clean outfit every day.*

- *Our recommendation to all pupils and staff will be that they shower or bathe on returning home and that all items of clothing are put straight into the washing machine.*
- *On PE days, we will ask that pupils arrive dressed appropriately and wearing trainers to reduce the number of outfits needed each week. Pupils will not be able to borrow spare kit from school.*
- *Pupils and staff will be required to wash their hands regularly, including before and after break and lunch. Antibacterial gel will be available at both entrances to school.*
- *There will be a system of in-class dining. At the moment, it is unclear as to the arrangements that will be in place with Caterlink meals and it might be that we will ask that every child brings a packed lunch.*
- *Tissue bins in classrooms will have lids and be double bagged. When emptied, the waste will be stored securely for 72 hours before being disposed of.*
- *The use of corridors will be restricted and a one-way system implemented throughout the school. Each group will have a designated door through which they will enter and exit the building. For the few classrooms that do not have an external fire door, access will be via another key entrance to the building and if possible, remain for the sole use of that group.*
- *A room in school will be designated as an isolation room. Should a child begin to exhibit symptoms of Covid-19, parents will immediately be called to collect them. We will then follow guidance as to further actions that need to be taken in response to the subsequent care of the remainder of the children in the group and staff member.*

I am a keyworker and my child has been attending school every day – will they still be able to come to school?

Our keyworker school will continue to run as it has done since 20th March.

My child is eligible for free school meals so will you still continue to support our family?

Yes, of course. We are not just supporting families of children who qualify for free school meals, we will continue to support our families in any way we can. We would encourage any family who needs help to get in touch with us and we will support in any way we can.

Between now and the announcement on 28th May, we will continue to plan for a possible return of our year 6 pupils, including what the arrangements will be to ensure safe drop off and pick up and what a staggered start and end of the day might involve.

Nothing will ever be more important than the safety of our children, staff and families and we will continue to work towards this end. We will keep you abreast of any further developments as they unfold.

Yours faithfully,

Julianne Taylor

Mrs J M Taylor
Headteacher

