

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): School reopening arrangements letter for the first 2 weeks for W/C 8.6.20**

**Introduction**

As we prepare to welcome children back into our school, we are aware that it is not possible to socially distance pupils in school – government guidance states: *“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.”* DfE Planning guide for primary schools 14/5/20

However, in our school we are doing all that we can to keep everyone safe, and as such we are placing a strong emphasis on measures to reduce mixing between year groups. Each year group will be less than the government guideline of 15 pupils and will form a separate unit (or ‘social bubble’). Drop off/collection arrangements, movement around the school site and all other everyday procedures have been adapted to this end.

**Classes**

Initially children will be in school for the **morning only 9-12**

The children will be taught in their year groups in the classroom shown in the table below.

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| **Pupil grouping** | **Allocated room** | **Adult in the ‘bubble’** |
| Reception / Year 1 (1st group) | Aire classroom | Mrs Garbutt, Miss Clackworthy & Mrs Jackson |
| Year 6 | Cowloe Classroom | Mrs Smith & Miss Robson (Mon & Tues) Mrs Tindall & Mrs Pickard (Wed – Fri) |

**The School Day**

**Arrangements for the start and end of the school day**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | **Start time** | **End time** | **Dedicated Entrance / Exit Door** |
| Reception / Year 1 | 9.00 | 12.00 | Aire classroom door (by the adventure playground) |
| 6 | 9.00 | 12.00 | Main entrance |

**Support requested from Parents:**

In order to maintain good hygiene standards and to minimise the risk of any spread of infection:

- Please ensure your child washes their hands before leaving home for school

- We would like the children to come in wearing freshly washed clothes every day. We do not expect uniform to be worn, just sensible clothes suitable for going outside.

- No PE kit is needed

- Please bring a bag big enough to contain a drink, a snack and a coat.

In order to minimise social contact:

- Only one adult should accompany children to and from school and children should be handed over to their teacher at their dedicated entrance.

- Please don’t bring your child or let them attend before their start time

**Arrangements for break times**

It will be really important for all pupils to have a break from learning and enjoy time outside during the school day. Reconnecting with friends will be an important aspect of pupils settling back into school life. However, to minimise mixing between year groups, we will stagger break and lunch times.

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| **Year group** | **Break time / location** |
| Reception / Year 1 1st group | When and as necessary using the yard & garden |
| 6 | 10.30 - using the field and/ or playground |

**Curriculum content**

We understand that what children need at this time is support for their physical and mental health and we intend to take the children out as much as possible – daily walks, trips to the local area (only if quiet enough) and tree planting are just some of the lovely activities that we would like the children to take part in, as well as supporting them in their curriculum subjects.

For the children who return, we would also spend time focusing on all important core skills that they may have found challenging at home. We would assess their current stage and support them in any areas that are needed. We would still do English (reading, writing & spelling) and Maths each day and once full time, we will cover topic work in the afternoons. All next term’s topics are based around water so getting outside would enrich this work. The content would broadly match that of the children at home so that we can share ideas and work between those at home and those at school, as well as enabling staff to keep the sense of ‘class community’.

**The Class and Teaching Environment**

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are doing all we can to ensure that our school remains a positive and stimulating environment in which children can learn and be nurtured. I know that there have been lots of pictures in the press of solitary tables marked out with hazard tape and bare walls. We have not taken that approach.

Whilst we have removed items that can’t be easily cleaned, we have tried to maintain the ‘feel’ of our school as we don’t want children to feel anxious about being in school. Most of our displays will stay up but will be fully wipeable and we hope our school will look much as it did last term.

Tables have been set up to be more socially distanced for the older class, but to soften this effect, we aim to make these inviting by giving the children their own little stationary pack so that they can personalise their ‘desk’ (I wonder if it will be tidier than mine?!).

In the early years we have removed the toys that aren’t easy to clean and put down colourful PE mats to encourage space when playing. We will also be creative with resources (e.g. giving children their very own playdough pack, scissors etc).

We know that in the beginning we will need to do a lot of reminding, but we feel the children can adapt to this new way. We are very proud of the positive relationships that we have with our children and all of our staff want to make sure that stays exactly the same.

**Adjustments to the school day**

To minimise the number of pupils and staff assembling for periods of time, we will also make these other changes to the school day:

* Rather than whole school assemblies, teachers will hold in-class assemblies
* Regular toilet breaks will be ‘scheduled’ so that we can clean in between – don’t worry though, they will still be able to go if they need to, we have designated an adult toilet for this and it will be cleaned after each use.
* PE lessons will be sensitively adapted to ensure social distancing.
* We are taking advice from Sport England on adapting our playtimes. Including some socially distanced games.

**Transition from Year 6 to Year 7**

We know this is a really important time for our Year 6 pupils as they are preparing to move to secondary school in September.  Whilst we can’t conduct any on-site visits to secondary schools we will still be doing everything that we can to support all the children to be ready.  We will:

* Liaise closely with our secondary schools to make sure they know all of the important information about each child.
* Provide special lessons and guidance for year 6 about transferring to secondary school.

We will answer any questions that the children have and support them with any anxieties so that they can make the best possible start.

**School Premises: Creating and maintaining a safe school environment**

For everyone’s safety, these changes add to the preventative measures we previously put in place to minimise the spread of infection as per the advice from the government. The measures in school are:

* Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school.
* Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
  + Before leaving home
  + On arrival at school
  + After using the toilet
  + After breaks and sporting activities
  + Before food preparation
  + Before eating any food, including snacks
  + Before leaving school
  + At regular intervals throughout the day
* Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school
* Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
* Placing the children in ‘bubbles’ whereby they remain in the same location with the same children and the same staff (as much as possible) to avoid mixing with too many children.
* Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
* Reducing the resources in class – we will be introducing the toys on a rota system so that they can be continually cleaned after use.
* Adapting the corridor with floor markings (like a road) so that children can be supported in social distancing.
* Adapting our early years environment with wipeable mats to encourage children to play in an appropriate space.
* Staggering arrival, break, lunch and home times to support social distancing outside the school
* Taking children outside regularly
* Providing children with their own stationary pack that will contain everything they need through the day
* Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell, isolating any unwell people in a separate room (the library) and providing a separate toilet, where possible.

**Support requested from parents:**

To help us I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices at home, such as thorough handwashing, and that you continue to talk to your child about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

Should your child feel unwell during the school day, they will wait (accompanied) in the library until they can be collected from school. Please ensure that we have correct contact information for you if you are needed to collect your child at short notice.

In line with the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop coronavirus symptoms for a period of seven days.  Symptoms include a high temperature, or a new, continuous cough and a 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.  Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111.

If someone in your child’s household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person’s symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, or if your child receives a positive test result for coronavirus, please contact the school on 01736 871392 at the earliest opportunity.

**Support for pupils and families**

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on pupils’ emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. With this in mind, we will provide the following support for children once they return to school.

* Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Long are available to support with special activities from our Trauma Informed Schools Programme.
* Mrs Smith & Mrs Garbutt are available as safeguarding leads to discuss any concerns you may have.
* Mrs Thomas is available as our SENDCO to support you with any concerns you may have with either your child’s academic, physical or emotional well being
* Mrs Pickard is able to support some of our SEN pupils with social stories or anything else they might need to reintegrate back into school.

**Support for Children at Home**

Our school staff have been placed on a rota to ensure that we have adequate teaching cover for children returning to school and those who are still home learning. There will always be a safeguarding lead available both on and off site and a point of call identified for anyone who needs help and support either online or on the phone.

Please remember, if you need support during this time, the following agencies are available:

**Samaritans** – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** – call for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247

**Shelter** provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged). A free webchat is available at <https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat>

Please also note that there are lots of other resources and agencies signposted on our website

**Children – How to Keep Safe**

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| **Washing and Keeping Clean** |
| * Wash your hands regularly and well – soap and water for at least 20 seconds. * Avoid touching your eyes, mouth or nose. ☺ * Use tissues if you sneeze and put them straight into the bin. * Wash your hands as soon as you have done so. * Try to keep your distance from other children and staff wherever possible. * Please use only the equipment that has been allocated to you. Do not borrow from other people. |
| **Playtimes** |
| * Keep with your group at all times. * Wash your hands before and after playtimes. * Avoid any games where you would touch other children. * Please move around the school carefully and calmly, keeping distance from others wherever possible. |
| **During Lessons** |
| * Keep to your own table please. * Avoid wandering around the room. |
| **Corridors** |
| * Please walk on the left hand side at all times. |
| **Going Home** |
| * You will be collected at your allocated time from your allocated exit. * If walking home on your own, please go straight home. * Keep at least 2 metres between you and anyone else. |
| **And Finally,,,** |
| * Thank you for your help in keeping us all safe. * Don’t forget that, although school life is a little different for now, you absolutely must have **fun.** |