



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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Dear parents and carers

I am writing to update you about our plans for a potential widening of the in-school population beyond that of Key Worker children in early June, should the government consider that it is safe. We expect a decision from Government officials on 28th May.

Following extensive Senior Leadership Team meetings, the Governors have confirmed the following plan should the Government's 5 key tests be met:

The school will NOT currently be reopening the nursery as governors deem that the risks are too great. To open the nursery would require a significant reduction in pupil numbers to make this safe and implement the 2m social distance rule, resulting in unfamiliar staff and surroundings being used by our youngest children. Governors agreed that opening the nursery in the format that would be required would be damaging to the development of our young people. This decision has not been taken lightly and we recognise that it sits outside of Government guidance. However, Governors concluded that although nurseries are listed as the number one priority, this is simply neither practical nor developmentally appropriate.

Nursery Key Worker children will remain welcome in the daily EYFS / KS1 Key worker group.

If the 5 conditions are met and it is deemed to be safe the following actions will occur from 1st June:

- Mon 1st June: **INSET** and orientation day for all staff (school only open to pre-booked Key Worker children)
- Mon 1st June: School open to all **Key Worker children booked in advance**. Children of Y6, Year 1 and Rec, who are also key workers will remain in a mixed age class rather than their own year group. This is because they are attending each week, rather than alternate weeks.
- Tues 2nd June: School opens to **Year 6 pupils** (each class split into two groups (bubbles), attending alternate weeks on a rota – to be published next week)
- Wed 3rd June: School opens to **Year 1 pupils** (each class split into two groups (bubbles), attending alternate weeks on a rota – to be published next week)
- Mon 8th June: School opens to **Reception pupils** (each class split into two groups (bubbles), attending alternate weeks on a rota – to be published next week)

Each Friday: School **closed to all pupils except booked Key Worker children**

The school will be **closed on a Friday** to ensure that all staff have received sufficient time to plan and prepare resources for in class and online learning. This will also allow time for the formal review of risk, staff meetings, training and enhanced cleaning.



The Governors are keen to implement a slow and cautious approach, learning from and adjusting practice as different year groups are returned. It is important to note that the risk assessment (attached) is under constant review and should further significant risks be highlighted, the Governors would not hesitate to strip back provision in order to protect safety.

Key Worker children will be able to attend each day (if booked) but all other invited year groups will attend **every other week** according to the group (bubble) that they have been assigned to. No group will have more than 13 pupils in (government recommendation 15), the maximum safe capacity of each classroom having been calculated. All pupils will remain in the same 'protected bubble' with the same adults throughout the day, including breaks and lunchtime. The aim of the protected bubbles is to reduce the potential for contamination between wider groups and to support infection control. As such pupils will not be able to move between bubbles at any time. **As hard as this sounds, pupils in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception who are also Key Workers requiring weekly attendance will not be able to spend time with their peers in their usual class.**

All classrooms have been set up to enable 2m social distancing, but this will depend upon how well children have been prepared for the different approach. We will be sending further information to help with this as it becomes available. It will also depend upon the age and stage of the child. As such, although we will do everything to enable effective social distancing, we can not guarantee that this will happen at all times.

Classrooms have reduced furniture and clutter allowing for regular sanitising. Older children will take increasing responsibility for the cleanliness of their own work station. Equipment will not be made public or shared; pupils will be provided with their own tray with everything that they may need. This week's Friday Vlog will give you an idea of what classrooms may look and feel like upon return:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PyXyMI754k&t=18s>

At break times pupils will be assigned a zone to play in and will have their own equipment which will be sanitised after use. Herts catering are able to provide a cold packed lunch (delivered to the classroom by staff from their bubble) for any child that orders it but will not be able to provide a hot lunch currently. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom.

Pupils attending school will be working in naturally ventilated classrooms. Where weather permits, work may also be completed outside. Our aim is to provide a 'thrive curriculum' which focuses on every child's wellbeing and aims to reduce anxiety, stress and cognitive overload. It is important to note that our focus will not primarily be on catching up but, rather, on emotional wellbeing.

Distance learning opportunities will remain but may have to be adapted so that staff are able to manage planning for those pupils in school and those out (as all staff will be working in school each day).

Contact with staff in school will be via email and telephone only as the school aims to minimise all physical interactions with the wider community. Pupil start and finish times will be staggered to minimise the number of persons on site at key times and a strict one-way system will be in operation around the site (in through the front gate, out through the back). Parents will be expected to minimise their time on the site, dropping and leaving immediately.

Systems and routines will be in place to ensure that rigorous hygiene procedures are in place (maintained throughout the day), including enhanced focused cleaning and sanitising. Pupils will have access to their own tray of personal materials so that nothing is shared.

Breakfast Club and **Cool After School Club** will be limited to the children of Key Workers and places may well be limited. This is because we are required to protect the integrity of the bubble and are not permitted to mix bubbles.



Please find attached a risk assessment in relation to a reopening and a Frequently Asked Questions Sheet which draws upon questions posed by parents during our recent survey.

I am aware that parents will need to make their own decisions in relation to whether children return or not this term. You know your circumstances best and there is no pressure placed upon your decision one way or the other. There are no plans to follow up non-attendance with fines.

In order to make effective and safe staffing plans, I now need to confirm potential numbers and as such, if eligible, I need to confirm whether you intend for your child to return to school or not from early June. At this point I need to have a firm decision and as such the choice will simply be 'yes' or 'no'. Please complete the survey (even if you completed the previous one) by **Tues 26th May at 10am**. Decisions received after this date may be delayed in gaining a place.

The survey can be accessed here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Du_J43VUNk28kpLmsyCso3U-FgE_MdxKhcmhR9u6idFUNFNWWDU4TlpHSVhSQkZYQIRDWFpVODQ1Si4u

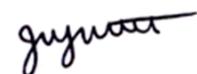
Pupils with eligible siblings will be assigned the same week for your convenience but groups / bubbles cannot be rejigged according to work schedules as the bubbles must be fixed. I'm afraid that we do not have the capacity to make changes to groups based upon friendships. **Please note that schools are not permitted to widen the eligible group to siblings in other year groups at this time. As such, even if this makes work attendance difficult, we are not able to negotiate this.**

Further details of bubble groups (which will be non-negotiable) and staggered start and finish times will be available by the middle of next week. At this point we will also share further details in relation to the school day and other pertinent issues.

I appreciate that this may not be easy for many and some aspects will be inconvenient to some working parents. However, we are working to government and Public Health England guidance to ensure the safety of children, staff and families and this can not be compromised by convenience. Please note that we will be reviewing the risk on a regular basis and may have to change our plans at very short notice.

Please do not hesitate to make contact should you require any further information. Thank you for all that you are doing to support the education of your child(ren). There will be many pressures upon you as you make this difficult decision and rest assured that your unique circumstances and decision making remains at the heart of my prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Jon White
Headteacher

