



18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

Schools are currently expected to open to all children in Nursery, Reception, Yr1 and Yr6 sometime from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Since the announcement, the Department for Education has issued parent information which can be found here:

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Whilst the government guidance is for all children in these year groups to attend if, for staffing, space and health and safety reasons we cannot accommodate all children, we are instructed to prioritise the keyworker and vulnerable children, then Reception class, then Year 1 and then Year 6.

Mrs May, Mr Hillerton and I have formulated our plans for reopening, together with input from other staff members. When we reopen, each class in Reception, Yr1 and Yr6 will be split into two groups each and will form a “bubble” led by a teacher or teaching assistant. The guidance acknowledges that social distancing is very difficult to maintain with children and so each bubble will stay together for lessons, playtime and lunch. Our keyworker and vulnerable children in Years 2 – 5 can continue to attend and will form a separate bubble.

Current guidance states that if a child or staff member within a bubble shows any symptoms of Coronavirus (that is, a raised temperature or a persistent cough), they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#). All staff and children who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

If the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

If the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of the bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Children who are shielded will not be able to return to school and some of you may choose to keep your children at home (a decision you can take without the risk of being fined). We will continue to provide home learning for all children and we are working on the implications of this parallel provision, with a particular focus on staff wellbeing and workload.

In line with Government guidance and to maintain the integrity of the various bubbles, EnergyKidz will not be permitted to provide any wraparound care for children.



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Aspens will be providing a packed lunch option which will be eaten in the classroom or outside for the Universal Free Infant School Meals (Reception & Year 1), and an option to purchase packed lunches for Year 6.

Our priority in all of this is the safety and wellbeing of our staff and pupils. With this in mind, we will operate staggered start and finish times, dedicated entrances and staggered playtimes.

We will be closing the school to all pupils (other than keyworker and vulnerable children) on Fridays each week. This will allow staff to plan for in class and at home learning for all year groups.

Each bubble will have a specific set of equipment and toys to work and play with. We will be removing soft toys that are hard to clean. Please note that the children will not be able to take home and return school reading books.

The final go ahead from the Government for school reopening will be after the next review of the lockdown which is due on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The Government did also indicate its aspiration that all Primary school children will return for a month of education before the end of the summer term, if feasible. We are awaiting further guidance on this.

No doubt some of you are anxious about the thought of your child returning to school. We have undertaken considerable contingency planning, which will continue with daily reviews. There will no doubt be emerging issues for us all to overcome. Please do let us know if you have specific concerns and we will try to address them as they arise.

You will receive more detailed guidance in the coming week, including specifics regarding start and finish times, entrance points and staffing allocations.

Yours sincerely

D J Gray  
Headteacher



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