



Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020.

I want to start by saying THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all of your positivity and appreciation. So many of you have been so supportive and this is greatly appreciated by the whole staff team.

As I explained last week, we have been asked by the government to prepare for a wider school opening FROM June 1<sup>st</sup>, using a range of Government documents to guide our decisions. As I am sure you will appreciate, we are still awaiting key information and reassurances before going ahead with our provisional plan outlined below. This includes:

- 28<sup>th</sup> May - Scientific evidence to be released by the Government regarding the transmission of COVID-19 between children and child to adult transmission.
- Confirmation from the Government that the 5 tests set have been met.
- Following these announcements, further guidance from the Local Authority and Unions.
- 31<sup>st</sup> May – Key/Critical worker list will be updated.

As you will therefore appreciate, there are currently many unanswered questions which need to be resolved. Therefore I feel it is extremely important to emphasise that the plans outlined below are provisional and may change at Stage 2 of our plan. As always, any changes will be communicated as soon as we are in position to do so, remembering that we usually find information out at the same time as you do, through the daily Government updates.

Earlier we sent you the Leeds Local Authority statement from Councillor Pryor, this emphasises the information I shared in the newsletter last week. It is really important to recognise that all schools are different and will have different numbers of key workers, children in each year group, building layouts, staff shielding and some schools are separate infant and junior schools. Comparisons are not helpful, as we are not in competition, we are all trying to do our best for our children, families and staff. Please trust that we have worked closely with our governing body to ensure the best provisional plan is in place.

When looking at a plan for wider opening, these decisions have been very difficult, but we have tried to strike a balance between what we feel is safe and what is right for our children and our staff. The plan has been designed to limit the contact the children have with lots of other children and adults in school. Some of the features of the proposed plan include:

- *Children and staff will be organised in small groups (known as 'bubbles'). These will operate as separate groups and have between 10 and 15 children in each bubble. The adults and children within each bubble will ideally remain together and separate from others during each school week.*
- *Classrooms and learning spaces identified for each bubble have been measured in-line with recommendations.*
- *Drop-off, pick-up, break times and lunchtimes will be staggered. Entry points around school will be chosen, where possible, to enable social distancing.*
- *Each bubble will have an allocated external play area and toilets.*
- *To minimise the number of adults on site, only one adult will be permitted onto the school site to drop-off or pick-up their child.*
- *At present, we are not offering before and school provision as Government Guidance states that this is not required (By offering this provision, we would be unable to keep children within*

*their separate bubbles which may increase the contact between groups, and therefore the risk factor for transmission of COVID-19)*

- *In order to limit the touch points within school, parents/carers will not access the main building. We will continue to ask you to communicate using email at this stage. If and when your children are attending school, this arrangement may change.*
- *For key worker children, we will be offering full provision during the week, Monday to Friday, 8.50am until 3.15pm. This will continue to be offered for children from Nursery to Year 6 for Key Workers only.*

### **Stage 1: Prioritisation of Keyworker Provision and Provision for Vulnerable Pupils -1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

We would like to thank all of the key workers for their hard work during this time. Many of you are working in jobs which have even greater pressures than usual and are also trying to support your children too. No easy feat! We have provided key worker places through the previous months and will continue to do so.

Thank you to those of you who responded to the letter I sent out on Monday regarding key worker places from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to the high number of key worker parents that we have, we have now processed the requests and you should have received a response via email this morning. If you have not received this, please email us at [admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk)

Once this stage has been completed successfully, we then will consider any further Government guidance, and whether we should move to **Stage 2** – this will be the phased introduction of one additional year group the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### **Stage 2: Return of Children in Reception – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Provisionally)**

The first year group we have decided to prioritise is Reception as Government guidance identifies that children in EYFS and Y1 should be prioritised *because ‘...evidence shows the particularly detrimental impact which time spent out of education can have upon them’, as well as ‘...moderately high scientific confidence in evidence suggesting younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus...’ (though we are hoping for confirmation of this on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020).*

In order for this model to be effective, we are proposing that school would be open for Reception for four days each week (Monday-Thurs: 9.00am until 2.45pm) allowing for the school to be deep cleaned on Friday, as well as allowing teachers to plan for this challenging phase. This proposal would also allow for 72 hours between the end and start of the following week – this fits in with the suggested scientific incubation period for the virus.

***If your child is in Reception, please click on the link below to inform school of your intentions by 11.00am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.***

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvgQbqB0G9ItU4I\\_awGaK6RmqZOWYpOgiFKxXGYOKjlx4YHQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvgQbqB0G9ItU4I_awGaK6RmqZOWYpOgiFKxXGYOKjlx4YHQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Once this stage has been completed successfully, we then will consider any further Government guidance, and whether we should move to **Stage 3** – this will be the phased introduction of Year 1 children the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### **Stage 3: Return of Children in Year 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Provisionally)**

Extend provisional offer to children in Year 1: Monday to Thursday – 9.00am until 2.45pm

***If your child is in Year 1, please click on the link below to inform school of your intentions by 11.00am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.***

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRIUAMtI9hXW2VMst5ApbT3BSqaxBnqO0v5X03DNG6mN5iBw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRIUAMtI9hXW2VMst5ApbT3BSqaxBnqO0v5X03DNG6mN5iBw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

#### **Stage 4: Return of other year groups – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 (Provisional)**

At this stage, we will use the latest guidance to review and decide on the best approach for introducing further year groups for Stage 4. Ideally, we will be aiming to provide an opportunity for children in all other year groups to access school. However, at this point we are unable to confirm the exact structure of the offer.

We are currently liaising with local High Schools regarding Y6 transition. Once this information becomes clearer, we will then be offering the opportunity for Y6 to return to school for a period of time if they wish to do so.

It is also useful to remember that the Government are yet to confirm if schools should return from 1<sup>st</sup> June and we will continue to communicate with you once we have any further information.

Once again, I would like to publically thank our staff for their incredible commitment, hard work and dedication to our school and to your children. They are a truly amazing team of people. As you can imagine, the staff team are exhausted and have been working hard to provide for the children in school and at home. In order for us to be in the best position moving forward, it is important that they get to spend time with their own families, with all staff taking some time out over the coming week. I would really appreciate it if you could therefore only email school during half term if it is regarding something urgent and needs to be resolved before Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for remaining positive and supportive and appreciating the difficulty in this situation we are facing. All decisions are deeply considered and we aim to do our best to support you and your children in terms of keeping safe, learning and social and emotional wellbeing. Nothing has changed in those regards - they are our core values and we absolutely want to support everyone to work together to REACH the very best for our children.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school soon.

Many thanks

Leila Rothenburg

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What will school look like for my child?**

#### **Will school be rigidly adhering to the 2m social distancing guide?**

As always, we will do everything within our realms of possibility to make our school environment as safe as possible for everyone in our care, whilst also maintaining our caring and nurturing ethos. As stated by the Government:

*“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. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:*

- *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *regular cleaning of settings*
- *minimising contact and mixing*

*It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.*

*Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.”*

### **Will my child be with their usual school staff?**

As children will be working in smaller bubbles, although we will aim to have a familiar adult working with each bubble, this may not be possible for all groups, depending on staffing.

### **Will I be fined if my child does not attend school?**

No fines will be allocated.

### **If my child attends school during the term, do they need to wear uniform?**

We completely understand that many pupils will have grown since they were last in school. This, along with the fact that children should be wearing a clean set of clothing each day, means we are not expecting children to wear school uniform. We would advise that children wear sportswear or other comfortable clothes which are suitable for taking part in active sessions and outdoor learning.

### **What will the lunch provision look like for my child?**

If your child is attending school and is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will be entitled to a Universal Free School Meal as usual. This will be in the form of a ‘grab bag’ packed lunch.

For children who wish to provide their own packed lunches, they are able to do so. Alternatively, if you wish to buy a lunch, a ‘grab bag’ option will be available.

### **What will my child need to bring with them?**

- Packed lunch if required
- Water bottle with their name on
- Sun hat

**School bags are NOT permitted. All resources will be provided by school.**

## **Classrooms**

- Classroom layouts will be changed so that they will be as safe as possible for children in our care, whilst we can maintain social distancing measures.
- The children will be supported by the same adults; this may not be their class teacher but we aim for it to be a familiar adult.
- The adults in the classroom will be teaching but not necessarily the National Curriculum. We will prioritise mental health and wellbeing, basic skills and outdoor learning as much as possible.
- Rigorous hygiene procedures will be followed at all times with regular hand washing for the children and adults.
- The children will have an allocated set of toilets that only their bubbles will use – these will be cleaned daily with a deep clean on a Friday.
- The children will be provided with their own work packs to use in school.
- It has been recommended that children in early years have a limited amount of toys to play with on a daily basis as these will all need to be cleaned daily and deep cleaned on a Friday. Soft furnishings have been removed as have the sand and water trays and many small world toys. Our Early Years classrooms will sadly look quite different to those that the children are used to.
- We will still have access to an outdoor space as part of our learning environment.

## **Break and Lunchtimes**

- The children in each 'bubble' will play together, work together and have lunch together in the same room.
- Each bubble will have an allocated space in one of our playgrounds. Areas will be cordoned off appropriately.
- All outdoor equipment will be limited and will be cleaned.

## **Other Considerations**

- Home learning will continue to be provided after half term. This will be reviewed as year groups return
- We plan to stagger the start and finish times for each bubble over a short period of time, to ensure the safety of everyone and to minimise contact. The timings will be strict. More details to follow.

Parents and Carers will need to consider:

## **School Opening and Closing Times**

- Please ensure your child is well before sending them to school, if they are in any way unwell, please do not send them into school.
- Please walk to school where possible.
- It is vital that ALL children are dropped off and collected on time each day.
- One parent/carer only must bring the children to school at the allocated time and wait at the allocated gate, socially distanced.
- Parents/carers will not be allowed on site, as has been our policy since school closure. Staff will be on hand to welcome children when they arrive and leave.
- If the older children are walking to school on their own, they must seriously adhere to social distancing guidelines – please talk to your child about this.
- All communication with staff will continue to be made via email.