



MEADOWSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL
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Monday 1st June 2020

Phased Reopening Update

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you are all well and you and your families remain in good health. Further to the government's latest announcement and in confirming that the five key tests have been met, we are now in a position to provide some additional detail in how we will begin to increase in pupil numbers.

Arrangements have been carefully planned, prioritising the safety of the children and staff. Whilst we must be clear that we cannot eliminate all risks, we have carefully followed all government guidance and advice from Public Health England in the planning of increasing numbers in school.

The government have identified that children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside current priority children, are to be welcomed back into school. These year groups have been prioritised because they are key transition years – children in Reception and Year 1 are at the very beginning of their school career and are mastering the essential basics, including counting and the fundamentals of reading and writing, and learning to socialise with their peers. Year 6 children are finishing Key Stage 2 and are preparing for the transition to secondary school. Please note that this does not include siblings if they are not in the identified year groups.

In order to provide a safe learning environment for the children and staff we will be gradually increasing the numbers of children in a phased approach. This approach will initially reduce the number of people attending school and will help to ensure that the protective measures we have put in place are gradually introduced to parents and children in order to reduce risks and build familiarity with the new routines.

There is a lot of information to share with parents and carers and I would encourage you to read this through carefully as we try to give as much detail and answer any questions you may have.

Groupings:

Children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be put into groups of no more than 15. A member of the teaching staff will be allocated to the group - it is important to note that this may not be your child's teacher but we will endeavour to ensure that staff are familiar to your child. Staff will try where possible to allocate children with their friends. Once these groups have been confirmed they will not be able to change and move between groups. It is still important to reduce contact between children and staff as far as possible and we have taken steps to achieve this and to reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, and staff where possible, only mix in a small group and keep that small group away from other people and groups – creating a 'bubble.'



Priority Group Return Dates:

On Monday 8th June we will begin to welcome back our Nursery and Reception children.

Children in Nursery and Reception will both be split into two groups or 'bubbles', enabling us to follow guidelines and maintain smaller numbers.

Group 1 in Sunflowers Nursery will attend on **Monday and Tuesday.**

Group 2 in Sunflowers Nursery will attend on **Thursday and Friday.**

Group 1 in Reception will attend on **Monday and Tuesday.**

Group 2 in Reception will attend on **Thursday and Friday.**

Wednesday – Whilst we are working hard to bring back all identified children, this is requiring a significant amount of staffing. Teachers are still entitled to PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) and we will also need to carry out a deep clean of the EYFS areas in preparation for the different groups. Staff will also be able to maintain our curriculum online offer for those remaining at home, though this will be much reduced.

You will be contacted by your class teacher to inform you which group your child is in and with what staff.

Our 2 year old provision (Daisies Class) will not be reopening yet.

On Wednesday 10th June we will begin to welcome back our Year 1 children.

Children will be split into three groups to enable us to follow guidelines and maintain smaller numbers.

Groups 1, 2 & 3 in Year One will attend Monday through to Thursday.

Friday - Whilst we are working hard to bring back all identified children, this is requiring a significant amount of staffing. Teachers are still entitled to PPA (Planning, preparation and Assessment) and we will also need to carry out a deep clean of classrooms in addition to the daily clean. Staff will also be able to maintain our curriculum online offer for those remaining at home.

You will be contacted by your class teacher to inform you which group your child is in and with what staff.

On Monday 15th June we will begin to welcome back our Year 6 children.

Children will be split into three groups to enable us to follow guidelines and maintain smaller numbers.

Groups 1, 2 & 3 in Year Six will attend Monday through to Thursday.

Friday - Whilst we are working hard to bring back all identified children, this is requiring a significant amount of staffing. Teachers are still entitled to PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) and we will also need to carry out a deep clean of classrooms in addition to the daily clean. Staff will also be able to maintain our curriculum online offer for those remaining at home, though this will be much reduced.

You will be contacted by your class teacher to inform you which group your child is in and with what staff.

Key Workers & Vulnerable Children

School will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers when they are not able to be looked after in the family home. These children will continue to work through the home learning tasks provided on their ClassDojo. They will be based in the **Giant Redwoods classroom.**

Parents of these children will need to decide if they wish to keep their children with this key worker group or move to their peer groupings on the days we allocate if they are in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Children will not be able to move between groups. The guidance tells us that it is very important to reduce contact between people as much as possible. Class teachers will contact these families this week for your decision on this.

Our current offer is based on the numbers we received from the recent survey where we canvassed opinion on who was likely to return. **Should numbers dramatically increase or Government guidance changes, it is important to note that we may need to revise our offer for certain year groups to ensure safety measures are maintained.**

If you have requested a place for your child and you decide that you no longer wish for your child to attend, you will need to inform us of this decision.

Attendance

No one with symptoms should attend school for any reason. If a family member suffers symptoms, then children should not return to school for 14 days. If the child him/herself displays symptoms, the guidance is that they self-isolate for 7 days. You will also need to inform school of this.

All those children eligible to attend school, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service. Should there be a positive case of Covid-19 within the child's 'bubble', the rest of their bubble should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child they live with from that bubble subsequently develops symptoms.

If someone in their household is within the extremely clinically vulnerable group, children should not attend school. Eligible children – including priority groups - are strongly encouraged to attend school, unless they are self-isolating, or they are clinically vulnerable (in which case they should follow medical advice). Families should notify school as normal if their child is unable to attend so that staff can explore the reason with them and address barriers together. Parents will not be fined or penalised for non-attendance at this time.

Attendance of EHCP Pupils: We will continue to work closely with parents of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to discuss any potential return to school, as part of a risk assessment approach.

Children classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to 'shield' and they should not attend, and they should continue to be supported to learn at home as much as possible.

Attendance of 'clinically vulnerable' (but not 'clinically extremely vulnerable) children are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus, parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Please keep school informed.

Attendance of a child who lives with someone who is 'clinically vulnerable' (but not 'clinically extremely vulnerable', including those who are pregnant can attend school (aligned with government guidance). Attendance of a child who lives with someone who is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' are not expected to attend school. They will be supported to learn or work at home. It is up to parents to make these decisions on attendance.

We have carefully followed government guidance and put in place a number of measures to support in reducing the risk of infection. Please see below for our detailed approach to the phased reopening of school:

Entry and exit of school

- Start and end times to the school day will be staggered as best as is possible and a one-way system will be in place. This is to reduce congestion and adhere to social distancing. **Parents and children must use the Clough Avenue gates to enter school and the Fisher Avenue gates to exit. No parents or children will be allowed to exit via Clough Avenue or enter via Fisher Avenue.**
- Year 6 will be encouraged to enter and exit the school site by themselves, using the one-way system.
- Year 1, 'Green' bubble will gain access/exit of the building through the Reception garden area gate and they will be strictly told to not to touch any equipment on passing through to the art area.
- Strictly only one adult per child (sibling group) will be allowed onto the school premises at drop off and pick up to reduce numbers
- In the morning, all parents will enter the school site at the main Clough Avenue gate, walk down the path (this will have 2-metre markings and signs along it to encourage social distancing). Reception parents will drop off their children at the Reception door and continue on the path around school. Nursery parents will drop off their children outside the nursery classroom and continue on the path around school. There are waiting zones just off the path for Reception and Nursery parents with social distancing markings. One Year 1 bubble, Green bubble, will enter via the gate of the Reception outdoor area and then into the art area by the fire door. Those parents will drop off at the outside area gates and then continue on the path around the school. The Year 1 parents of the other two bubbles will enter the playground but stop at the floor markings in front of the playground pencils and Y1 children will then be directed to their bubble classrooms by staff. These parents will then continue across the playground towards Fisher Avenue. Vulnerable / Key worker parents will drop off their children at the gates in front of the Giant Redwoods and Treehouse outside area. Year 6 will enter their designated classroom bubbles. All parents will then continue around the playground and exit via Fisher Avenue gates. Staff will be on hand to help with this.
- Support staff will be available next to the pathway and on the playground to encourage social distancing
- The finish times for the end of the day are staggered as best as possible, parents will be encouraged to only enter school premises when it is their pickup time.
- Year 6 parents will need to wait safely outside of the school gates at Fisher Avenue to avoid gatherings
- Children will exit by the means mentioned above for each year group
- Available staff will be deployed at the rear of the building, on the car park and playground to encourage social distancing
- It is important that staff stick to timings as closely as possible to avoid any crowding
- Parents will not be allowed to access the school office and any messages or notes will be passed at the gate in the morning or can be emailed or phoned into school

Classroom Arrangements

- Classrooms have been redesigned to promote social distancing, spaced desks and personal resources
- Minimising contact and mixing across the school with children being placed in small groups
- Groups allocated staff which will be consistent
- Staggered break and lunch times
- Minimum movement around the school building
- No before or after school clubs will run until further notice.

Resources

- Resources in EYFS have been carefully considered resources to minimise the sharing of resources between any groups. All soft furnishings, toys and those with intricate detail have been removed. Malleable resources such as play dough will not be shared between groups. Public Health advice is that sand pits should not be used at this time.
- Reception, Y1, Y6 and Key Worker/ Vulnerable Groups pupils will have an allocated tray near their table and provided with their own resources which will be kept in the tray (pens, pencils, whiteboards, phonics charts). Resources will not be shared
- Resources from home must not be brought in, this includes children bringing in toys or pencil cases from home
- Children cannot take home reading books
- Each group across school will be provided with an outdoor play box. This will be kept within the group and returned to the classroom each day. All equipment will be wiped down and sanitised after each day
- Children will be allocated the same iPad to use throughout the day. At the end of the day these will be sanitised fully in preparation for the next user.

Hygiene

- Hand washing on entry into school, when entering outdoor areas / playground and on entry back into school, before and after eating. Handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day
- Regular wiping down of surfaces / equipment throughout the day including outdoor equipment
- Avoiding sharing resources and equipment where possible
- Inner doors to remain open to reduce contact with handles. EYFS doors must still remain closed to support with safeguarding.
- Sanitiser units have been installed in every classroom and at key entrance points throughout the building to support with hygiene
- Increased cleaning throughout the day has been timetabled to support with maintaining hygiene and cleanliness
- **Uniform is relaxed and should only be worn for one day and washed. This is very important in order to minimise the risk of spreading infection. We are mindful that some of our children may have outgrown some of their uniform since March, therefore we ask that they return in suitable clean clothing. The children will be doing a lot of outdoor learning, including PE – so sports kit (t-shirt and shorts) is acceptable. Football kits will not be permitted. The most important aspect of this is that children wear clean clothes every day.**

Lunchtime Arrangements

- Children will eat their lunches in their classrooms.
- Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (Rec, Y1 and Y2), will receive a packed lunch free of charge whilst attending school.
- Those paying for lunch and those entitled to a Free School Meal, will receive a packed lunch rather than a hot lunch. Children can bring in a packed lunch from home if they wish.
- Those paying for a school lunch will need to use the ParentPay app as usual.
- Children attending school from the 8th June whose parents would usually pay for a meal, will need to pay for each meal via ParentPay. This applies to those children in the year groups identified to attend and the children of essential workers
- Children will need to bring in a filled water bottle each day.
- Snack will be provided through the Magic Breakfast scheme.

We recognise that parents and children are returning with trepidation. We have remained open throughout the lockdown period and have been meticulous in our approach, whilst still ensuring children feel settled and safe. We have carefully planned the reopening including how and when we communicate, to ensure that we minimise any confusion and risks as numbers begin to increase. We hope that parents feel reassured by the finer details we have included within this letter and in the way we have safely managed the children of critical workers as well as vulnerable children throughout the pandemic.

We are looking forward to welcoming more children back into school and staff will continue to work hard to follow all guidance, all with the best interests of the children at the forefront of our minds.

Thank you for all your support throughout this time, it has been greatly appreciated.

Kind regards



Mr S. Wright
Headteacher



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