

Dear Parent,

Before I begin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children due to the current pandemic. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

Following on from my recent communications and the Government's decision to open schools more widely, I am now writing to confirm that we will be welcoming Year 6 children back from Monday 8th June 2020. Whilst the Government's ambition is to also invite early years and Reception children back too, you will no doubt appreciate we are taking a cautious approach to wider opening and we will only invite those year groups back as and when we know it is safe to do so in our own setting.

In order to best protect your child and our staff we have put a number of temporary measures in place.

I have summarised the most important information you need in order to decide whether your child should attend the academy:

- **Keeping your child safe**

Our Estates team have been working tirelessly with our Principals to ensure all possible protective measures are in place.

Measures such as small class sizes, one-way corridors within the academy and more focus on hygiene routines will be in place from 8th June. Break and lunch times will also look and feel very different as we attempt to keep children from mixing with any more people than necessary.

All of these additional measures are laid out in detail in a comprehensive suite of risk assessments. You are welcome to view these on our academy website.

We have also added some temporary procedures to our standard policies, including safeguarding and behaviour. We will be issuing an additional Home Academy Agreement for you to sign so that we can all truly work together to keep your child safe.

- **Attendance expectations**

If a member of your household is displaying symptoms related to Coronavirus (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) please do not send them into school. You can access testing through the NHS

website. If anyone in your household is positively tested for Coronavirus, your child should not return to the academy for 14 days.

Children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (please check the following link for an up to date list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>) should not return to the academy. If someone else in your household is classed as extremely vulnerable then you should only return your child to school if you believe you child can stringently adhere to social/physical distancing measures and follow all instruction.

If your child is clinically vulnerable but not on the above list, please seek medical advice before making your decision whether they should attend.

Whilst our desire is to welcome all pupils back at the appropriate time, we completely understand that you will be anxious about whether your child will be safe in the current circumstances and I wanted to be clear that you will not be held to account in the normal manner should you choose not to send your child to school during this unprecedented time. We may make calls home to check that children who can be in school, and are not, are safe but I wanted to assure you that the Government have confirmed that no action (including fines) will be taken for non-attendance.

In the first instance (on 8th June) Year 6 children may attend along with priority children and those whose parents are key workers. If we deem your child to be a priority pupil, you will have received a phone call making you aware of this.

We regret to confirm that brothers and sisters of Year 6 children will not be able to attend the academy unless they fall into either of the other two categories.

It is then intended that we will invite some more year groups back on the following dates:

Year 1: 11th June (transition visit 10th June- 11:15-12:15)

Reception: 18th June (transition visit 17th June 11:15-12:15)

Nursery: 18th June (transition visit 17th June 11:15-12:15)

These dates may change if we are not able to safely accommodate them. We will give you as much notice as possible if they do need to change.

Assuming that we will need to continue socially/physically distancing until the Summer holidays, based on our risk assessments and school capacity surveys, it is highly unlikely that any other year groups will be asked to attend site this academic year. We very much hope this situation will change by September 2020.

It is important to note that, if we do not have enough staff to safely supervise all of the children attending (this may be because of increased demand for key worker places or staff sickness), we may have to retract the offer for some pupils to attend the academy and revert to home learning. We will obviously give you as much notice as possible if this situation arises.

- **Uniform expectations**

We do not expect children to wear school uniform during the remainder of this academic year but ask that your child has clean clothes every day and sensible footwear.

- **Transport**

Wherever possible, you should avoid public transport. Walking and cycling would be the preferred methods of transport.

If you are bringing your child to school by car, please be considerate to our academy neighbours and park in a safe manner.

- **Dropping your child off and picking up**

To best protect against social gathering at the start and end of the school day, we have staggered start and end times slightly. Please aim to arrive at school as close to the allocated time as possible and maintain a social distance from other family groups. We recommend you discuss this with your child before they attend.

The start time is and collection times are listed below along with their entry and exit points:

Time	Year group	Door
8:30– 8:40	Year 6	Year 1
8:40-8:50	Keyworker and vulnerable children	Care club
8:50– 9:00	Early Years Children	EYFS door
9:00-9:10	Year 1	Year 1
9:10-9:15	Sibling groups of cross groups	Doors as above

A member of staff will meet you at the drop off point located by the door relevant to your child's group. We ask that you remain with your child until they are received by our staff.

During the day, we may check your child's temperature, including on entry to the academy. Should the reading indicate that they have a high temperature, you will be required to take your child home.

- **Arrangements for lunch provision**

We have assessed the risk of sending your child into school with packed lunches and will not be allowing children to do this. Our caterers are providing meals for any children who is attending site. We anticipate this will be free of charge for the remainder of the academic year but will give you notice if this changes. If your child has any allergies or special dietary requirements (and will be attending school) please do let the academy know as quickly as possible. To minimise movement around site, we will be delivering packed lunches to classrooms.

- **Equipment provisions**

To minimise the sharing of equipment within the school environment, we have identified some resources that will not be in use during this extraordinary time. Our curriculum has been adapted to take account of this. Your child will be provided with a pencil, pen, crayons, felt tips, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, scissors, whiteboard and whiteboard pen. This resource pack is for your child to use only. These items will be kept on their desks in their own tray.

Whilst we will be explaining why they shouldn't share their equipment with classmates, it would be helpful if you can reinforce this message at home. Any resources that are kept at home should be cleaned on a daily basis, using anti-bacterial wipes, washing up liquid, detergents as appropriate.

- **Parental visits**

To ensure we minimise the amount of individuals entering the school site, we ask that parents do not enter the site for ad-hoc meetings. It is also more important than ever to make sure your child has everything they need for the school day so please do ensure you have supplied them with all the equipment they need. If you need to speak to anyone please call the school office on 01782 973855 or send a message to the relevant member of staff via class dojo.

Whilst your child's teacher is always keen to discuss your child with you, in the current circumstances we request that all communication is via phone or class dojo until further notice. The school office will not be open to parents at any point during the day.

If you have informed us that you wish your child to return to the academy as part of the partial re-opening, your child's class teacher will be ringing to explain key information and answer any questions that you might have.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Niemczyk
Principal