



Thursday 9th July 2020

General Information on School Reopening From 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. For families who have lost loved ones during this time we offer our condolences and any support that the school is able to provide.

If you need to speak to us about any family bereavement you have experienced in recent weeks, please phone the school office (0161 432 1916) so that we can arrange a time that Mrs Whitlow, the Family Liaison Officer can speak to you. We can also provide copies of Stockport Council's Bereavement Guidance and support is available at the following link <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/wellbeingcoronavirus>

As you will know school has been open to groups of Key Worker children and children from Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery since the 10th of June. The government recently announced that from September, all primary age children will be expected to return to school and attend full time as normal and all schools have been given specific instructions to put nine control measures in place to make this return as safe as possible for children, staff and parents. A link to the guidance has been added below. Please take the time to look at this if you can.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

However, due to the unprecedented circumstances, it has not been possible for us to hold all our usual transition meetings and activities for children and parents.

All parents will receive specific details of the date that your child will return, which class your child will be in, where they will work, before the end of summer term.

The planning for bringing all of the children back to school, whilst implementing Government Guidance in relation to Social Distancing and safe practice has been extremely complex. In addition to increased hygiene and cleaning routines, the two key principles for minimising risk to children and staff are; **restricting teaching groups to 30 children** and **minimising contact between these separate teaching groups during the school day**. This means that your child will have a different experience in school to the one they had before lockdown.

In September, children will be in their new classroom or with their new teachers (apart from those in the lower years of the mixed age classes who will stay in the same rooms with the same teachers) and we have tried to reduce movement between class groups to a minimum. However, as class groups must be kept separate, children might not

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be able to see all of their friends at playtimes and lunch times. Mixing before and after school will also not be possible under the current guidance.

The information below is detailed, so that you receive a clear picture of how the school will be organised under the new guidelines. Plans are being kept under review and are subject to change, in order to respond to the latest advice from the DfE, Local Authority or trade union guidance. Plans may also change if our staffing changes or a local lockdown occurs and we will inform you of this as soon as we are able to.

When is school planning to re-open?

Our official reopening day is Wednesday 2th September, but we are waiting for Stockport Local Authority to confirm whether schools will have additional set up days to prepare for reopening, as occurred in June this year. We would aim to have a short phased return early in September, which most likely involve two year groups returning each day. As soon as we know the LA's plans, we will give all parents and carers specific return dates for each year group.

Is there a breakfast or after-school club?

We are aiming to start a reduced breakfast club service from the end of September. There will be limited places for each year group, as they will have to sit on separate tables in order to meet guideline restrictions. After school clubs will have to be exclusive to single year groups and there are no plans to have these back before October.

Opening the Hub to all year groups currently would not be possible. We are looking at providing a limited service by October and exploring the possibility of using other rooms, but all classrooms currently need a deep clean at the end of the day before they can be used by another group.

Which class and which teacher will my child be with?

Children will be in fixed teaching groups of 30. As we do every year, class teachers have organised the children for next year's classes, taking into account friendships, learning needs and other factors. Senior Leaders and the schools Special Needs Co-ordinator have had meetings with all teachers from each school phase in order to ensure that this has been carried out using all the necessary information about each group of children.

Due to the unprecedented disruption this year, we have not changed around class teachers or the classrooms they work in, as far as we were able to. Therefore, children should come back to a school where there they are familiar with the staffing structure.

How will you keep children separate from each other?

Your child will be in a fixed teaching group with up to 29 other children. These groups will stay together for the day throughout teaching time, lunchtime and play time. Along with the measures listed below we aim to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk to children by keeping these groups separate.

- Separate classes will not be allowed to mix with each other at break or lunchtime



- Staff will avoid physical contact with children, including handholding. They will be able to administer first – aid and intimate care, whilst wearing the appropriate PPE
- The start of the school day will operate in a similar way to a rainy start; where children will walk straight into their class, dropped off at the gates by parents and not waiting on the playground or lining up. Additional gates will be open from 8.40am until 9.00 in order to enable a spaced out drop off at school
- All contact with the school office must be by phone or email
- Children will wash hands on entry to school and frequently throughout the day
- Children will continue to eat lunch in the classrooms
- Frequent and regular cleaning of surfaces
- Soft furnishings and toys removed from classrooms
- Any shared resources will be cleaned after use
- Individual stationery packs will be provided for each child to reduce sharing resources
- Children will not be able to bring in book bags or other resources from home
- Parents and children will need to socially distance on the playground at the end of the school day
- Home times for children will be staggered to reduce congestion

Children are now allowed to sit in pairs, side-by-side in the classroom, but face to face work is not permitted unless children are at least 1 metre away. Staff must remain 2 metres away from children as much as possible when in the classroom.

What happens if my child, another child or an adult in a teaching group shows symptoms of Covid 19?

If your child is unwell with any symptoms of Covid 19 then they should not come to school and you should book a test for them at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 if you have no access to the internet.

If any child shows any of the recognised symptoms of Covid 19 parents will be required to collect them from school immediately. We will also inform parents of other children in this group. Parents must then follow Government Guidelines on isolation and book a coronavirus test for their child. **These tests must be booked online at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 if you have no access to the internet.**

Other family members must follow isolation guidance, (currently 14 days). If any child or teacher tests positive for the virus, the whole teaching group will be required to isolate for 14 days, even if they show no symptoms.

What is happening at lunchtime?

Each teaching group will eat their lunch in their classroom. Lunches that are provided by school will initially be a 'grab bag' sandwich choice (we are working with Taylor Shaw our lunch providers to see what alternatives can be offered). We will not be using the dining hall as this would mean children mixing with other teaching groups and it would not be possible to clean down the tables between classes or sittings. Children who normally bring their own packed lunch will still be able to do so.

What will happen to Free School Meal vouchers?



Vouchers will not be issued once the children are back at school. However, if your child is not returning to school because of a serious medical condition, then they may still receive vouchers.

What will the curriculum look like?

Initially, the curriculum will focus heavily on supporting the emotional well-being and mental health of the children who are returning to school. The priorities for young children will be resocialisation into new style school routines, speaking and listening, and regaining momentum, in particular with early reading.

Teachers will then quickly assess where children are up to with their learning and what gaps they have in their knowledge and skills, due to the long absence from school. This may well be the vast majority of children, so teaching and learning over at least the first term will focus on catch up activities and tasks in the basics of phonics, reading, writing and maths for each year group, as recommended by the Department for Education.

Phase leaders will be organising the learning structure for each week, aiming to plug the gaps that children may have in the National Curriculum requirements for each year group.

As the year progresses and children begin to catch up, wider learning aspects from a range of subjects will be introduced into the curriculum so that we can return to teaching the full curriculum by the summer term 2021.

Funds are being made available by central government to allow schools to support those children who have fallen significantly behind their year group expectations and we will be putting plans in place to help them, as soon as details of the funding are made known to individual schools.

What is happening with Home Learning Projects?

Home Learning Projects will stop at the end of July. The school will continue to offer support for any pupils who have to remain at home due to serious medical conditions. In the event of a local lockdown and school closure occurring due to a spike in infection rates, the school would support home learning as before.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes, now that the guidance has changed it is no longer necessary for children to have freshly washed uniform every day. We are also asking parents and carers to provide PE kit for outdoor games lessons. We will not be having gymnastic or dance lessons in September, but if guidance becomes less restrictive this may be possible soon.

Can my child bring things into school?

The only things you child will be able to bring in from home will be a named PE kit, water bottle and packed lunch if they need one. Children must not bring in toys, comforters or reading books or bags at the start of September.

What happens if we are late for school?

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Gates will be open until 9.00am. After that, children must arrive at the school office gate and they will be taken to their class group by a member of staff.

Will any school events be taking place?

Currently there are no plans to have any assemblies, meetings or events for children or adults, as we are not allowed to have groups any larger than 30 inside at any one time. We are hopeful that as restrictions ease and guidance changes, we will be able to start having events at school again.

In the meantime, please keep looking at the school website and school spider app, as this is our main way of contacting our school community.

How can I help my child?

Talk to your child about school will look like and try to discuss any concerns they may have. Practise helpful behaviours, such as hand washing and remind them that at the moment they should avoid hugging or holding hands with friends and staff. Explain to them how they might not be with all their friends and some of their classmates from last year.

Do I have to send my child into school?

The Department for Education have told all schools to expect full attendance from September 2020. Parents who do not bring their children back to school if they are fit to return, will be fined as before the lockdown.

However, **children who have serious health conditions or who are shielding should seek medical advice before considering returning to school.** If your child has a serious medical condition that we are unaware of, please contact the office and let us know.

We feel confident that through the introduction of different year groups during the first week of September and with your co-operation, we will be able to manage a safe and successful return to school. We will be constantly reviewing our plans and procedures to iron out any unforeseen problems that may arise in the first few days.

In the long term, we will have to take our guidance from the government and the local authority as to what measures will need to be maintained, but we are hopeful that school will return to a more usual timetable as next academic year progresses. Thank you for your continued co-operation and support during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Langley, Headteacher

Laura Thomas, Chair of Governors