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Newsletter  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience whilst we have been working non-stop to adapt the school. We now feel ready to open up for a select few children that requested places for the rest of the Summer Term. When you get to see the risk assessment in full, you will see why it has taken this long to make sure the setting is safe for your children and staff.

The risk assessment is going through its final check today and I hope to share it with you tonight or tomorrow. It is a mammoth document but we would like you to take the time to read it and confirm your acceptance of it. In the meantime, I thought it wise to share a few important notices with you regarding the reopening of school as things will be very different on your children's return.

Firstly, only two bubbles will be opening on June 1<sup>st</sup>. YRs + Y1s will have a 'bubble' in Heron's class. Y6s + two key worker siblings will form a 'bubble' in Miss Spaul's class.

We have delayed opening Nursery until June 8<sup>th</sup>. This allows us to sort out additional issues with the setting and issues related to the very young age of the children. We want to be confident that when these children return it is as safe as we can possibly make it for both children and staff.

If everything goes to plan, Y3 + Y4 children will return on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Things will be monitored closely and more information will be given out to parents of both bubbles returning later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The most important change you need to be aware is that our offer of schooling will have to be reduced to four and a half days. **On Wednesday afternoons, school will be closed to pupils.** This is to

enable us to carry out a mid-week deeper clean (even more thorough than the continuous and relentless daily cleaning). It will also give teachers dedicated time to plan and cater for children learning at home - just over two thirds of our school community. We think that this is a fair offer as many schools have decided to shut for a whole day.

We decided that Wednesday afternoon will be the most sensible time to close as it means school can be in a continuous loop of daily cleaning and deeper cleaning every two to two and a half days. This gives us an added layer of hygiene to keep everybody safe.

With regards to coming back, you can play your part in helping us to keep the children safe. We would like you to take time to explicitly talk to your child about three key messages we have heard throughout lockdown.

Coming back to school means an even greater need to be hygienic. Firstly, the children must be aware of the importance of catching germs. I do not wish for any child to be coughing or sneezing in school without knowing about and being able to act upon the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it message.



Secondly, you must talk to your children about the need to do thorough handwashing that lasts at least 20 seconds. In the fight against all viruses, handwashing is the most effective way of killing them.



Finally, and perhaps the most controversial part of schools returning, is the need to social distance. School has been arranged in a way that keeps children apart (except for Nursery aged children who will be mixing with their peers but only where necessary with the adults).



We want to be praising children for the way they are keeping each other safe, not continuously having to remind them of the rules. The more you talk about these three key elements, the better placed they will be when coming back to school. We know that the younger the children, the harder this will be but we must have high expectations as this is about keeping everybody safe. We know we can trust you to do your part.

Practicalities about returning:

There will be staggered starts for each bubble to prevent too many people being on the playground at the same time. Nursery will enter school first at 8:45. YR and Y1 children will enter the school at 9:00 and Y6 children plus two key worker siblings will enter from 9:15.

The playground will be cordoned off and each group will be instructed where to go. Mr Edwards and one member of staff from each bubble will be on the playground to welcome children back. Just like in supermarkets, you will be expected to stand 2m apart. To help with this, hula hoops will be positioned on the playground for you/your child to stand in. The member of staff from your child's bubble will administer a temperature check and will lead (socially distanced) or instruct your child where to go.

When they return, Nursery children will go in through their usual entrance. YR + Y1 will enter Mrs Bethell's classroom via the classroom's back door. On their return, Y3 + Y4 children will enter through the main blue door at the front of school. Y6 children will enter past Mrs Saunders' office. It is essential that they turn right when they enter through the main door and go past the bottom of the stairs. Then they can turn left and go through the next door, past the disabled toilet into their classroom. This is to prevent them entering the library area which Heron's class will be passing through in order to get to their toilets. This will prevent cross-contamination of bubbles.

As stated in the FAQs that went out, children will not mix with anybody not in their bubble – neither will staff. We have taken as many precautions as possible to limit this contact.

Times for collection at the end of the day have also been staggered. When you arrive on the playground, we would like you to stand in a hula hoop whilst Mr Edwards messages your child's class teacher to inform them to

let your child out. This ensures children and adults from different bubbles are not mixing and social distancing rules stay enforced. We will expect you to abide by the one way system in and out of school when leaving. Enter through the main gate onto the playground and leave via the side exit on Holly Road Farm. If you have a push chair/ pram you will need to wait until the main entrance is completely clear before leaving.

All lunches have to be either a school packed lunch or a home packed lunch. There will be no hot dinners. School packed lunches will be provided as usual. Lunches will be eaten within the children's 'bubbles' in the area of the school they have been designated to. Children's packed lunches from home will need to be brought in a carrier bag so everything can be disposed of straight after lunch to reduce the potential spread from home to school.

If a child complains of feeling unwell, they will be isolated in Owl's classroom. You will be contacted immediately and asked to take your child home. Any staff member looking after a child that has been isolated will have to wear full PPE because of the potential risks.

On their return we would like children to wear non-uniform and trainers or other suitable footwear. To limit the chances of scrapes and grazes that would require full PPE dressed members of staff dealing with first aid incidents, it would be helpful if children could wear tracksuit bottoms or casual jeans or trousers. Something loose fitting would be ideal as each bubble will be exercising at various points during the day. If the children are wearing shorts or skirts and fall over it increases the risks of open wounds and this puts others more at risk. We expect to see the children in a change of clothing each day. It is advised to wash clothes at 60°C for at least ten minutes on your return home to ensure no potential contagion remains.

I have covered the main points but you may well have further questions you would like answered. I suggest that you wait for the Risk Assessment to be sent over as this will address things in much greater detail.

However, as always, please get in contact with me via my email:

[head@reedham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@reedham.norfolk.sch.uk) or phone into the school this Thursday or Friday when staff will be on site to complete the final preparations for the return to school.

Best wishes,

*Chris Edwards*

Chris Edwards

Headteacher

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