

# Wreningham V.C. Primary School

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**Wednesday 20-5-20**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family are well. I apologise for writing to you at length but there is a considerable amount of detail I need to include in this letter so you can make a final, informed choice about whether or not to send your child back to school.

Before outlining the details of the reopening of our school I want to reiterate what I wrote previously: Parents will not be fined for non-attendance and the decision to send your child into school remains with you. The school has been working with the other primary schools in the Wymondham Cluster to ensure some consistency of reopening, although school leaders in each school have their own individual contexts to take into account.

Teachers want to get back to normal school life and do the job they were trained to do. We care deeply about the children and families in our school. We know that for many it has been a very difficult time. In respect to reopening, we must put in place the measures that reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus (COVID-19) in school. The overriding priority remains the safety of the children and staff in our school, and you and your families at home. The school work place is very different to other work places and children, especially young children, will need considerable guidance to manage the many changes to their school day. School will not be school as they knew it. I hope this plan will help alleviate some of these problems and reassure parents of our commitment to their safety.

## **SCHOOL REOPENS 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE TO YR, Y1 & Y6 PUPILS**

This school plans to reopen on 1st June for more children (i.e. alongside key workers we will be open for YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils). We will be open for 4 days each week allowing a full and deep clean each Wednesday, helping to keep the children and staff safe. (However, the school will still be open for key workers.) The reopening is predicated on the 5 key tests set by government justifying this <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy> It also depends on the school's on-going assessment of the risk - that it is safe for both children and staff to do so. There may be circumstances in which we need to close the school at short notice.

**Chair of Governors: Mr Jon Gent**



## THE ORGANISATIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION IMPLICATIONS

Considerable planning and changes to school routines has needed to take place to meet the guidance documents from the Gov.UK. The following plan is the school's assessment of the best way to put these protective measures in place and so reduce the risks:

- One of the main protective measures to help prevent transmission is to reduce class sizes and have small groups (referred to by the government as 'bubbles'). To enable this we will establish set 'bubbles' that will comprise between 5 and 12 children - although the size is dependent on the final number of returning children.
- Children will only mix with this smaller, consistent group of children. Each 'bubble' must stay away from other children's bubbles, and staff.
- Ideally each 'bubble' will have the same class teacher and teacher assistant every day but, with the staff numbers we have, this is not possible to arrange all the time. This means children will be taught by more than 2 adults through the week (though we have ensured the teaching staff of younger pupils do not teach the older pupils, and vice versa).
- We will decide on each child's 'bubble' once we have definite numbers -not all children will be with their friends and they may not have their class teacher.
- We have established 4 'bubbles'- One bubble for Reception children and the keystage 1 keyworkers; one 'bubble' for Y1 children; one 'bubble' for keystage 2 keyworkers; and one 'bubble' for Year 6 children. This may change depending on the number of children returning.
- Each 'bubble' will be allocated a room to support their isolation. Playtimes will be staggered, and bubbles will be allocated a playground space.
- **Younger children from YR and Y1 will need to be collected at lunchtime.** This we believe will help us remove the problematic logistics of organising lunchtimes and the ongoing difficulties especially of younger children using the toilets when they need to. It will help staff to clean resources that children are touching such as desks, chairs, equipment etc. and surfaces such as doors, sinks, taps etc. The cleaning will be ongoing. Most importantly, we also believe it will help the children's wellbeing. The youngest children in particular may be anxious about returning after considerable time at home, alone with their parents. We believe that many may struggle for a whole day and that a shortened day will help the slow re-integration back into school life.
- The children staying all day will need to bring a packed lunch. The older children will have to remain at their allocated desks inside the class, and to keep to their own equipment. The older pupils will need to bring their own stationery (but this should only be a small number of pencils, pens, ruler etc.).
- We have organised seats in class 2/3/4 to facilitate social distancing and this means wherever possible having a 2m distance. However remaining 2 metres apart as children move through the school, go onto the playground etc. will be more difficult (and near impossible for the younger pupils). Children, especially in the reception year, learn by touching, doing, being with others and sharing – all of which will have to be limited as far as is possible. **So, by sending your children back to school, parents must be aware that school will not be able to *guarantee* social distancing in any year group, especially in Year R.**
- Teachers will still be supporting the remote education of those staying at home. To enable this, the staff will only be teaching the work in school they put online to their respective year groups.
- Children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school.
- If a child lives with someone who is extremely vulnerable, this should be a significant factor in influencing your decision.

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## THE DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES FOR THE DIFFERENT YEAR GROUPS

- Drop off times will be staggered and as follows: Y6 pupils (and siblings) 8.40AM, Y1 pupils 8.50AM (and siblings) and YR pupils 9.00AM. Parents must avoid gathering in groups.
- At midday, parents of children in Year R pick up their children. Y1 parents collect their children at 12.15PM. Y6 parents will need to collect their children at 3.10PM.
- Parents can come onto the school grounds to drop off and collect but are not allowed to go any further than the clearly marked areas/barriers. Younger children will be led out and be released back to their parents.
- If a pupil that is expected to attend is not coming in on a particular day, the parents should ring and notify the school (as is the usual procedure).
- Parents can make arrangements to speak to the school ([office@wreningham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@wreningham.norfolk.sch.uk)) or go to the main front desk, queuing 2 metres apart outside the entrance as in supermarkets. Only one parent is allowed in the school front entrance at a time.
- School will only be open on Wednesday for pupils of key workers (not to pupils in YR, Y1 and Y6). This will enable the school to be thoroughly cleaned ready for the remainder of the week.
- Children presenting with the Covid-19 virus will be triaged in the entrance (which will be locked). The other children in their 'bubble' would be sent home that day. If the child subsequently tests positive they, their family and the other children in their group, and their families, will need to self-isolate.
- The evidence is that a high level of hygiene helps reduce the spread of infection. Children will be expected to wash their hands on a regular basis through the day.
- Children are expected to wear their school uniform. We ask children to wear clean clothes every day and we will accept home clothes on the days your child's school uniform is being washed.

## HELPING TO INFORM YOUR DECISION – THE SCHOOL SURVEY

Parents now have all the information that we can currently provide and so we need to ask you to make your decision if you have not done so already. Last week's survey was really helpful as it gave the school a sense of the potential numbers of children returning. Now we need a more definite answer so that we can allocate pupil groups. Committing to this does not mean that, if things change, you must send your child in to school. But it is saying that, as things remain, you plan to send your child in on Monday 1st June.

**A second survey is now on the school website** (closing date Friday 22nd May, 12PM). YR, Y1 and Y6 parents who stated 'Other,' or who have subsequently changed their mind, we would appreciate a second response so that we can allocate each child a final 'bubble'. Those parents who stated 'No' or 'Yes,' and this remains their response, need not complete this survey again.

## THE SCHOOL REMAINS OPEN OVER THIS LOCKDOWN PERIOD

The government is talking in general terms about a full return before the summer holidays. That is another day and so currently this reopening refers to the next few weeks and the YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils only! If you complete the survey with 'Yes' you now need do nothing other than bring your child back to school starting on Monday 1 June. **As stated previously, the care of key workers' children and vulnerable children will remain the school's priority and the school will continue to be open for these children each day.**

Finally, the staff look forward to welcoming those children that return to school after the half-term, on 1<sup>st</sup> June. We will be waiting to greet you and take your children to their relevant class base and 'bubble'.

Mr Jones

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