



15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Government's Updated Guidance for schools to begin to re-open

I hope you are all well and keeping safe at home.

As you will have heard, the Government announced on Sunday evening a plan to begin a phased re-opening of schools from 1st June at the earliest, starting with children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside priority groups. Since then we have been reading the various Government guidance documents and risk assessments that have been released throughout the week and continue to take on board both County and Union guidance.

As you know we have remained open throughout the Covid-19 crisis for the children of critical keyworkers and other priority groups. Any consideration to extend this further next half-term will be based on a careful risk assessment process and would be a gradual process – which means we would not be able to open the doors immediately to all children in the selected year groups on 1st June.

Our main priority moving forward will be the safety and welfare of the children and our staff. There are members of staff who will need to remain working at home on medical grounds and the same will be true for some pupils who because of their own health needs, or those of an adult in their family, means remaining at home at the present time is the right course of action. It has been made clear too that in the current climate, if and when school does re-open for some pupils, you have the right to keep your children at home if you would prefer to – and would just need to advise us of your decision.

Within the government guidance is the suggestion that we manage risks through implementing a number of changes and I think it is important to outline some of these for you at this early stage. That way you can begin to understand what school could look and feel like for those attending and appreciate that unfortunately your child may not be able to be in their classroom with their teacher and all their friends. You can then make the judgement yourselves about whether you would feel happy for your child to return to school.

We are asked to consider:

- Smaller class sizes - limited to no more than 15.
- Consistent adults with each group of children
- Consistent classroom used for each group of 15
- Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended for staff or pupils
- Groups of children must NOT mix together
- Reducing movement around the school – children to eat in their classroom
- Staggered break and lunchtimes so groups are not mixing together
- Specified external door for each year group to use for drop off and pick up
- Timings of the school day will differ for different groups of children so that children can arrive / be collected at different times
- No visitors into the school allowed, including parents (only deliveries)
- Only 1 parent/carer should escort their child to school
- Strict cleaning and hand-washing protocols to be adhered to throughout the day
- Outdoor apparatus not to be used by any group as this cannot be cleaned thoroughly between
- Children not to bring anything to school from home other than a coat, packed lunch if required and a water bottle

Based on our experience of running the provision for key worker children, we do not feel that it would possible or in the best interests of the children's mental health to insist on stringent social distancing from one another

and the teachers, but we would plan to minimise contact as much as is possible and feels appropriate to do so.

To accommodate the 4 classes suggested by the Government on a full-time basis and the key worker children in groups of 15, we would need to use the majority of the classrooms in school. Therefore, we feel that any request from the Government to further extend the opening of school to other year groups looks highly unrealistic, unless we were to run things on a rota basis which is currently not advised by the Government.

Currently, we are considering all options and I want to be guided further by what you, as parents and carers, are most concerned about and need to have in place in order for you to feel comfortable about sending your children back in to school.

Therefore, I have set up a survey to gather your views. The survey will be sent to all parents with a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 to seek your initial response as to whether you would intend to send your child/ren back to school or not. It also invites you to share any concerns you have and any measures you would want to see in place before sending your child/ren back to school and also provides an opportunity for you to ask any questions. We will not be able to respond to each individual survey but will read each one to identify the main trends and topics and these will then be used to help plan our approach.

The survey will be sent out separately and we ask you to complete it by the deadline of 12pm on Tuesday 19th May.

Please note, that if you child is currently attending school through the key worker and vulnerable group scheme, this will continue alongside any additional intake of children. We anticipate that we would also continue to provide remote learning although there may be some changes for certain year groups, based on staff availability.

For Nursery parents please note that we currently provide Nursery provision for over 40 children on 3 different attendance patterns. I need to advise you that we may need to prioritise places for those children who currently attend for 30 hours but this will be informed further by your survey responses.

If you are interested in reading the government's latest guidance on schools and parents and carers it can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I know I have shared a lot of information but also want you to know this is just the first outline and re-iterate that no firm plans have been made at this stage. We would only start to move forward with any options whilst the Government remain confident that the five criteria relating to the rate of progression of Covid-19 continue to be met.

I would ask you to be understanding of the school constraints in the weeks ahead. I would love nothing more than to open the doors of Camp School again to you and your families but at this juncture we need to move forward safely and cautiously and in the knowledge that the situation could change at any point. We will continue to keep you updated in the weeks ahead.

Kind regards,

Sharon Barton
Headteacher