

Welcome Back!

Dear parents/ carers,

As you are aware, the Government has requested that schools begin to prepare for extended opening of their provisions from 1st June. In the first wave, schools will consider pupils from year 1 and 6 as well as those with parents who are key workers and children highlighted as vulnerable. As your child meets at least one of these criteria, we will be offering provision. Due to transport considerations, this cannot start on the 1st June, however, we aim to get pupil back as soon as possible as long as it remains safe to do so.

I must stress that parents have the choice of whether to send their children back to school and at present parents/ carers will not be sanctioned for declining provision.

I would like to take this opportunity to set out how school routines, policies and procedures have changed since the initial lockdown of schools in March.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support and communication during these unprecedented times. Although there are still many uncertainties, I am pleased to be able to open the school for our learners and hope that you feel assured that as a staff, we have your child's safety and that of our staff as our main priorities. We are confident that the measures that we have put in place will ensure the safest working environment for everyone on site. I have outlined some of the measures below, however if you have any queries, please feel free to discuss these with staff during weekly phone calls.

I would also like you to consider your routines at home to support us with providing as many pupils a safe education as possible.

- * We are asking that all families of our pupils who attend school, continue to adhere to the social distancing guidance from the government and do not socialise with others from outside their family unless this is unavoidable (e.g. going to work). It is imperative that we keep everyone as safe as possible and this will minimise the likelihood of pupils exposing others to the virus.
- * We have also taken advice from Public Health England in relation to school uniforms – pupils will not have to wear uniform in the short term; however they MUST wear clean clothes each day. We advise that wherever possible, parents/ carers wash their child's clothing as soon as they come home from school. Pupils should attend in appropriate clothing.
- * Pupils will be expected to wash their hands using soap and water on arrival and then every 30 minutes (for at least 20 seconds). Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms.
- * Pupils will have their own work station and resources (pens/ pencils/ paper). Some desks may have been removed from classrooms to make more space.
- * Your child may have a different teacher or teaching assistant (due to staff shielding/ in risk groups) but we have tried to keep groups the same as before lockdown as far as possible.
- * Not everyone in your child's group will be back at the same time. Offers of provision have been decided using advice from Government guidance. Initially, returning pupils are from year 1 and 6. Groups will be no larger than 8 pupils (4 in each class).

- * Teachers will ask pupils to keep a **distance from other children (2 metres)**. However, understanding the nature of young children, we are **unable** to guarantee that social distancing will be adhered to stringently by pupils.
- * Children may not be able to play with all of the toys that they had access to before lockdown as these have been put away for safety and some activities may not be available.
- * Pupils will still be able to go outside to enjoy the sunshine and play, although we won't be going on trips for a while.
- * Pupils are all required to bring a **packed lunch** in from now on as we have no facilities at present to be able to offer a hot meal (please try to choose healthy options).
- * We will be explaining to pupils that if they need to cough or sneeze – they should use their elbow to block their face or a tissue (then put the tissue in the bin). It would be helpful if you could encourage this at home prior to them attending.
- * Our cleaner is on site every day after the pupils and staff leave to keep the room fresh and clean for the next day.

Behaviour challenges –

We are aware of the sometimes complex and challenging needs of our pupils and strive to support them using a range of strategies and de-escalation techniques. However, if your child becomes deregulated or, in rare cases, needs physical intervention – we will have to discuss our ability to safely manage these individual pupils. We will liaise with yourselves and other agencies to determine if we can have pupils on site that pose a risk to their own safety and that of others before making any decisions about provision.

Our dedicated staff will continue to nurture and support your child and therefore in situations where your child needs comforted (perhaps after a fall); our staff are able to facilitate this.

Transport –

We have been working closely with Northumberland Transport services to plan for pupils returning from 1st June. As yet we are unable to guarantee social distancing measures within all of our taxis. If you would prefer to transport your child to and from school, please let us know so that we can arrange times.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Blackburn

