



Thursday 17th June 2020

Dear parents,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well. I am writing to give you some information in response to FAQ regarding the partial reopening of school from week beginning 22nd June and what you and your child can expect. Sefton Council has confirmed that we can open on 22nd. This information is being sent to all families, including those who have informed us their children are not returning yet.

Can you guarantee school will be 100% safe?

No. We are following all relevant government guidance to reduce as much risk as possible but we can't make a school into a clinically sterile environment.

What are you doing to reduce risk?

We have carried out a detailed risk assessment, which has been approved by our governors and has been forwarded to Sefton so that it can be checked by the Health & Safety team and unions. It is also published on the Coronavirus updates page of the school website, along with the government guidance we have worked from.

I strongly recommend you read both of these documents so that you are fully informed.

The two most important risk mitigation measures identified in government guidance are:

- Establishing 'bubbles' of children, who will stay together and not come into contact with other groups in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Max 15 children in a bubble [generally fewer than this].
- Regular handwashing and good respiratory health practice [catch it, bin it, kill it]

Other measures include:

- Social distancing as much as is practically possible – children will have identified classroom workspaces
- Removing furniture and other items from teaching spaces in order to provide space for social distancing and remove items that can't be easily cleaned [soft toys etc]
- Individual learning materials – children will have their own set of equipment which will not be shared
- Identifying specific toilets for each group
- Additional cleaning – each group will attend 4 days – the 5th day to be used for deep cleaning. There will be also be more frequent cleaning during the day
- Staggered start and finish times to avoid unnecessary contact
- Staggered break and lunch times to avoid unnecessary contact
- Separate entrance / exit doors for each group to avoid unnecessary contact
- Only one parent to drop off / pick up to reduce numbers of people accessing the site

Will staff and children wear face coverings?

Only in limited situations. Neither children nor staff will wear face coverings as a general rule – the only exception is where staff need to have prolonged close contact with a child, for example in some first aid situations and if a staff member has to supervise a child with suspected Covid 19 infection. In this case the child would be isolated from others and both the child and staff member would wear recommended PPE.

Will breakfast club and after school club be available?

Only for children in the critical worker groups. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, and you need breakfast and after school care, your child will need to remain with the critical worker group. This is in order to maintain the 'bubbles'.

What learning activities will take place?

Children in school [including critical worker groups] will be taught lessons planned by the teacher of their group at the appropriate level. We will provide an overview of the week for home learning along with links to suitable resources so that home learners can broadly follow the same activities. Home learning for R/1/6 will be supported by other teachers. So for example Mrs Flynn, Miss Davies and Mr. Blakely will teach Y6 in school, whilst Mrs Burgess will support home learning for the remaining Y6 and Y5 students.

What if you have too many children?

Based on the responses we have had from parents, we will be able to accommodate everyone that is planning to return. If for any reason we are unable to take everyone [for example if we do not have sufficient staff available] the priority order is as shown below, and we may have to stop other groups:

1. Children of critical workers
2. Reception
3. Year 1
4. Year 6

I'm a critical worker but I want my child to be with their age group. Is that okay?

Yes, but you will be unable to access breakfast and after school club and will need to make care provision for the day they are not in school. **There is no option to be with their year group for 4 days and with the key worker group for 1 day.**

My child is not in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 but I need to get back to work. Can they come to school?

Not unless you are a critical worker or your child has a social worker. You will need to make other childcare arrangements.

If I change my mind can my child start school later on?

Because we have to be strict about numbers and allocate staffing, you can't just send your child in. We will have review points at 2 week intervals – this will be the earliest time we can make changes. If you haven't requested your child to start on 22nd June, the earliest opportunity will be 2 weeks after that, week beginning 6th July, **provided you give us notice and we have sufficient staff available.**

Do I have to send my child back to school?

The government hopes that all children in the identified year groups will come to school, however there will be no penalties imposed for those that don't. If a member of your household has been instructed to shield, then we would not expect your child to be in school. If anyone in your household has Covid symptoms, your child **must not** come to school but should follow the self-isolation procedures until a test has been carried out and a negative result received.

What about test and trace? Will you be sharing contact details?

Yes. We will cooperate fully with the NHS test and trace scheme and will provide contact details of anyone who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive. We have prepared a privacy notice for families which has been emailed to each family and placed on the website.

What if there is an outbreak in school?

We will report to Public Health and follow their advice, including test and trace.

Do children need to wear school uniform?

That is up to you. Children's clothes should be washed each day ideally, so we recommend they wear something easily washable and suitable for being outside as we plan to get outside as much as possible. We are also very aware that many children will have grown out of some elements of uniform.

Can my child just come in on some days?

No. If your child is returning in the R/1/6 class groups, you should regard it as normal school expectations – if they are not coming in you need to ring school with the reason. The government expects us to take registers and report on attendance as normal. Lessons will follow a sequence so missing days will mean missing work.

What about lunch?

There will not initially be a hot food option. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who are in school can be provided with a free packed lunch prepared by the school kitchen. This will typically include a sandwich, biscuit or cake, a piece of fruit and a drink. Children in other year groups will need to bring a packed lunch with them. This includes children who receive income-based free school meals as parents have had supermarket vouchers to buy food.

I want my child to be in a different group – can we swap?

No. Staff have planned groups carefully. The 'bubbles' have to remain consistent so we will not swap children around.

Where do we drop off and pick up children and what times?

Your child's group will be emailed to you

Please adhere to 2m social distancing when dropping off / picking up – ONE ADULT ONLY PLEASE.

Group	Arrival time	Arrival / Pick up point	Pick up Time	Day off
Reception A	9:00 – 9:15	Line up at normal Reception line in playground.	3:00 – 3:15	WEDNESDAY
Reception B	8:45 – 9:00	Wait outside the main office entrance	2:45 – 3:00	
Year 1 A	9:15 – 9:30	Line up in the playground in 2G's place.**	3:15 – 3:30	FRIDAY
Year 1 B	9:00 – 9:15	Line up by the bike sheds.**	3:00 – 3:15	
Year 6 A	8:45 – 9:00	Mrs Flynn's class door from Preston New Road**	3:00 – 3:15	MONDAY
Year 6 B	9:00 – 9:15	Miss Davies' class door from Preston New Road**	3:15 – 3:30	
Year 6 C	8:45 – 9:00	Mr Blakely's class door from Preston New Road**	3:00 – 3:15	

**Group teachers have prepared a short video for each group, which you can share with your children so that they have an idea of what to expect when they arrive at school. Please see Coronavirus updates page on school website.

Medication:

Please ensure we have up to date medication in school for your child [inhalers etc] as many were taken home at the point of lockdown. Please also ensure you tell us of any new conditions.

School office:

The office will operate a one-in one-out system to maintain social distancing. If you possibly can telephone or email rather than coming in. Please do so.

Access to the school site:

As always, no parents' cars to come onto the school site.

The entrance from Larkfield Lane will be available as normal. Guidance tells us that transitory passing in in areas such as this is acceptable.

Other information:

Everyone involved in the partial reopening of school has roles and responsibilities. These form part of our risk assessment which can be found on the coronavirus page on our website. Parents roles and responsibilities are included below for your information.

PARENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- DO NOT attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid 19
- DO NOT attend school if anyone in the household is displaying symptoms
- DO NOT send pupils to school if displaying any symptoms of Covid 19
- Maintain a 2m distance from all persons where possible
- Adhere to school drop off/pick up times allocated to your child's group
- Only **ONE** adult to accompany children to / from school
- Adhere to one in/one out rule in the school office
- Notify school if your child is not attending on a day they should
- Parents must not enter the school building, other than the school office [as above]

What about the other year groups?

As you will be aware, the government has now removed the intention that all other year groups should get around a month in school, prior to the Summer break. Nevertheless, as a school we would still like to have the opportunity to see the other children if it is possible. Once we have the partial return established, we will look to see if there is any way to achieve that.

Kind regards,

Julian Ward