

Dear Parent/Carers,

**COVID 19 Reopening of school 1st June 2020**

We all hope that you and your families are well and keeping safe.

It is the Prime Minister’s intention to get our children back to school, beginning on 1st June. If the conditions are right, children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are expected to begin school again. Three weeks later the plan is that all other year groups would return to school.

As you can imagine reopening is taking a lot of planning and preparation following government guidance. We continue to await further clarification as this is a rapidly changing picture.

Our main priority is the safety of our children, yourselves and our staff. How we keep everyone safe within our setting is a concern for us all at the moment.

I am sure that you agree social distancing is almost impossible with young children. Our plan, if we reopen, is to reduce the number of children and adults in a room and spreading the groups in different areas to reduce the possibility of groups of adults and children mixing with other groups. Staffing will be different and your child will most likely not be with their class teacher. This is due to staffing implications and their attendance as well as ensuring your child mixes with as few staff as possible. The children will remain in the same group throughout their time in school, including lunchtime and allocated outdoor space. To minimise contact, the children will not be allowed to change or move to a different group. To plan carefully, any child on site must be expected in and therefore we need to know exactly which children will be attending.

We will have staggered drop off and collection times to avoid parent/carers gathering at the same time and clear signs for how children enter and exit school. Strictly one adult per family can accompany children to the site at any one time and ideally this would be the same adult each day. The school office will be open via telephone or e-mail contact only – no parents/carers will be allowed in the school building. There will be no collective gatherings for the children including assemblies, lunchtimes and playtimes.

All children will wash their hands thoroughly when they enter the school building. There will be regular cleaning of surfaces that children are working in and there will be regular hand washing throughout the sessions. Hand sanitisers will be widely available in all rooms. In accordance with guidance, bins will all have lids and there will be a deep clean of all rooms between groups of children using them.

With all of the information we have at this time and awaiting further guidance from official bodies, the proposed reopening will be as follows;

* All classes will be allocated into two groups
* Each group of children will attend Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday
* On a Wednesday, between groups, school will be closed to all pupils to allow a deep clean of the school
* Nursery children will be assigned to either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday 8.45am-11.45am
* Reception children will be assigned to either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday
* Year 1 children will be assigned to either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday
* Year 6 children will be assigned to either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday

We understand that many parent/carers have worries and concerns about their child returning to school. We have shared our initial plan with you so that you understand what we are doing as a school with the up to date information and guidance available to us. The guidance and information we receive changes daily therefore please be prepared that the plan may need to be refined prior to school opening to any pupil.

The government have prepared a document **Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for the wider opening from 1st June**.

We need to continue with our planning arrangements this week prior to a potential reopening on June 1st.

**If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, we need to know if it is your intention for your child to return to school on 1st June 2020.**

I understand that we have spoken informally on the telephone to some families who shared their initial thoughts on a return to school. Following this correspondence and the information shared, **if you do intend for your child to return to school w/c 1st June please contact school to ensure that your child is added to the register by Wednesday 20th May**.

E mail blackfell.primary@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Telephone 0191 917 1665 to speak to a member of staff or leave a message on our answer machine.

We understand that the government may change their plans many times before 1st June and of course, we will keep you updated of any changes to our school.

Thank you all for your support and please contact school if you would like to discuss anything with us.

Julia Watkins

Headteacher