

Progress in Partnership

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Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware of recent Government suggestions regarding the possible 're-opening' of Primary Schools in England from 1 June. We are extremely keen to work carefully with all of you in this as we realise how significant and serious a matter this is for us all. We have been very grateful to you for your support as we have sought to work in extremely different circumstances and to support the ongoing education of your children. We want to continue to work with you as we move forward.

Schools and their 'responsible bodies' (Local Authority or Academy Trusts) have been looking at this guidance very carefully and considering what they can and should sensibly do in light of it. The 'responsible bodies' have a responsibility to look carefully at matters relating to health and safety and employer responsibility as well as educational provision. We have worked with our schools to confirm what in practice can and should happen with each school, bearing in mind these responsibilities. Clear communications will be given to confirm what will be planned to happen within each school. We are very keen to work in partnership with families in thinking through these crucial matters and in planning appropriately.

As part of this, it would very helpful for us to understand your thoughts regarding possible 're-opening scenarios' that could be attempted. Most specifically, we would be grateful to know your initial thinking about whether you would or would not send your child(ren) to school in any of the possible situations described. We understand that you might not be sure of the answer to this, but, if at all possible, it would help us if you could suggest either 'Yes' or 'No' to the questions asked. The sooner we are able to gather this information, the more helpful it will be to us. **Our online questionnaire is attached. Parents of children in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 -your immediate response would be gratefully received.**

Further advice from the Department for Education has indicated that schools would be expected to create class 'bubbles' of up to 15 children and an appropriate number of adults supervising them. We have been assured by the DFE that this represents an acceptable level of risk to pupils, staff and the wider community.

I am in the process of working with staff to plan how we would make this work. I believe that we could be in a position to be able to offer the DFE recommendation. However, I am mindful of our space limitations and the numbers anticipated in returning would need to be assured beforehand.

We would aim to have 'bubbles' of groups in Pre-School /Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. Each group would have a consistent teacher or teacher assistant which we will be able to determine further once we know the numbers returning.

The groups will carry out learning activities in-line with the home learning activities being sent home for all pupils. Children would be required to retain as much distance between each other as possible in the classroom and outside. It will not be possible to consistently maintain 2 metres distance between them.

Lunches will be eaten in their classrooms and breaks taken outside within their own 'bubble'. These will be staggered so that there is minimal interaction between each group. Please can we ask that you send packed lunches in with your child so that they will be able to eat in their classroom or as a class outside.

We will also develop a way of staggering the start and end of the school day so that as few people as possible were arriving at school at once. We will also set up different class entry and exit points.

We would ask all families to maintain as much distance as possible between families as you arrive and depart from the school site.

Please be assured that we are carrying out risk assessments and further procedural plans over the next week to add more detail to this, we will carefully consider how pupils move around the school, organise toilet breaks, set up effective hand washing routines and any other interactions. I will send out this detail when we have this completed.

In all of this, we wish to be clear that effective home learning and support will need to remain at the core of our provision for all of our pupils. Even for those that do return to school, home learning activities and resources will be significant in ongoing educational provision. We will continue to seek to develop this to be as effective and helpful as it can reasonably be.

I fully understand that many of our parents will be glad to support their child on a return to school, and that many of you will continue to have concerns. There is really no right way of dealing with all of this that everyone will agree with...and I want you to know that you have my full support in how you decide to manage it with your own children.

Our Trust of schools has decided that our target date for a phased re-opening is the **8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**, **subject to all necessary measures being in place**. We believe that is the right time to begin the phased re-opening of our education establishments. The Government has stated that there will be no fines for parents for non-attendance within this period, and we will be following this guidance.

Thank you for your continued support during this time and, as always, we are available to be contacted through email or calls to the school office.

Kind regards.



Aileen Russell  
Headteacher  
Everton Heath Primary School

