



Orchard Primary and Nursery School

Head Teacher Mrs J Chambers
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19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to update you about the re-opening of school. **Please read this carefully as we have made necessary changes regarding dates for opening to each year group.**

Since the announcement from the Prime Minister, we have been working hard to ensure that, as a school, we are following the government's detailed guidance as well as continuing to ensure that the **safety of pupils and staff remains our absolute top priority**. Although planning and risk assessments are still continuing to be completed and checked, we are now able to share more details with you.

- From **Monday 1st June**, Orchard school will be back open to **Key Worker and Vulnerable children** - arrive **8.45am** – home time **3.15 pm**.
- Also from **Thursday 4th June**, Orchard will begin to allow more children into school. We have chosen to do this gradually to allow good routines to be established and embedded within a year group, before introducing another year group.
- **Thursday 4th June** – We plan to welcome back **Reception children** – arrive **10:00 am** – home time **2:00 pm** and subsequently each week **Tuesday to Friday**.
- **Tuesday 9th June** – We plan to welcome back **Year 1 children** – arrive **9:30 am** – home time **2:30pm** and subsequently each week **Tuesday to Friday**.
- **Thursday 11th June** – We plan to welcome back **Year 6 children** – arrive **9:00 am** – home time **3:00pm** and subsequently each week **Tuesday to Friday**.
- We have staggered timings for the start and end of the school day between year groups to allow for as much social distancing as possible. We will confirm the details with you in advance.
- **At present, we cannot invite Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) children back into school. This is due on going risk assessments and the space required to ensure social distancing between such young children. We also have no further details of dates when they and the remaining year groups will be invited back as yet.**
- Although we cannot yet provide you with the exact details about re-opening, we would like to share the following :
- **Children will be split into small groups** (bubbles) and remain in these groups all day, this includes playtimes and lunchtimes. There will be no mixing of these groups on following days, to prevent any potential spread of Covid-19. Group sizes at present will be no higher than 10. This means there is a strong chance that your child will not be with their own class teacher or their friends, or even in their own classroom.





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- We would naturally make every attempt to enforce social distancing of 2 metres. This is impossible to guarantee when working with children. Therefore, any family choosing to send their child to school when we reopen must accept that **ensuring social distancing may not be achievable**.
- Play times and lunch times will be staggered to create distancing between groups, even when they are outside, and these groups will not mix.
- **Hot food will not be available at lunchtimes**. No hot meal will be provided for children in Reception and Year 1; packed lunches will be provided. In Year 6, children need to bring a **packed lunch in a disposable bag** which could be eaten in either their classrooms or outside on the school field. If your child is in receipt of free school meals a packed lunch will be provided.
- There will be no whole-school assemblies or whole-school gatherings.
- We will be **preventing the sharing of stationery/ toys and other equipment** in classrooms as much as we can.
- Children will not be able to bring anything from home except a names filled water bottle. No reading books or book bags or mobile phones.
- Children will have an allocated play space and equipment for their bubble - they must remain within this space during outdoor playtimes.
- They will have some lessons that involve a lot of independent learning as the teacher will not be able to go side by side or sit next to them to give them targeted support. The teacher needs to keep social distance when teaching (the amount of distance keeps varying – to the public it is 2m but it has not been confirmed yet if this is the case for schools so we are operating on the same basis as the general public)
- Only one parent is allowed to drop off their child, this will be at an allocated time and place on the school playground. **All children have to be brought and collected by an adult. No child can walk home unaccompanied.**
- **There will be no expectations for school to follow the full National Curriculum at this time**. Classrooms will need to be rearranged in order to ensure social distancing. Teaching activities will be adapted to prevent movement within the classroom. In younger years, this will present considerable challenge as we will have to significantly adapt our play-based curriculum.

Health/ Medical Guidance

- If your child begins to display symptoms of the virus, you will be contacted to collect her/ him from school immediately. Testing will be available for children displaying symptoms, when schools reopen. If the test has a positive result, your child must self-isolate for 7 days and the rest of your household must self-isolate for 14 days. The rest of your child's class group will also be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. If the test has a negative result, your child can return to school and the rest of your household can end their self-isolation.
- Children and families classed as being 'clinically extremely vulnerable' due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield.
- If anyone in your household develops a fever or new continuous cough, you are advised to follow the Covid-19 guidance for households:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>





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Parent/ Carer Information

- **All children have to be brought and collected by an adult. No child can walk home unaccompanied.**
- We may need to incorporate a one-way system in school to enable safe staff and pupil movement (further details to follow).
- Parents/ carers must adhere to social distancing rules while on school premises, including no gathering at any entrances.
- Parents/ carers **must not** enter the school building unless they have a pre-arranged appointment.
- There will be no **face-to-face communication** with staff, including office staff. You must continue to use phone calls and emails to the School Office.
- Children would be expected to come in a **clean set of clothes each day** but please ensure that they are suitable for outdoor PE. No sandals please and hair tied bag in a simple bobble.

Reminder

- **There is no requirement for any parent/ carer to send their child from these identified year groups into school. Any and all pupil absence will continue to be authorised until the end of the summer term. The Department for Education has confirmed there will be no penalty for families who do not send their children back to school. It is your choice. Please remember guidelines are changing daily and therefore we may need to make changes at short notice.**

As always, we will keep you informed, but for now please try not to worry.

Next week was planned to be May half term, therefore we are not setting any online learning through Dojo. Please just try to have a relaxed, fun week with your families and hopefully spend some time together in the sunshine.

Many thanks,

Mrs Chambers
(Head Teacher)

