



RICHARD WAKEFIELD C.E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL
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Dear Parent or Carer

Firstly, it goes without saying that we all hope that you and your families are all safe and well.

We wrote to you last week following the government's announcement that schools should look to extend their opening to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from Monday June 1st. You may have in your diary that this day is down as an Inset day – this has understandably been cancelled.

It is important to note that our school has been open for keyworker children and those considered vulnerable since the start of the crisis, including over holidays and will continue to do so until any changes in guidance are made. Therefore, many of the expectations set out by the government guidance and the practical arrangements for doing so have already been in place even though this has only been for small groups.

The government guidance given has generated huge amounts of differing opinions and comments from many sources. As a school, and as part of The de Ferrers Trust, we have to get on and put plans in place to ensure any pupils who wish to return to us can do safely.

In order to welcome other children back to school we clearly have to consider the implications of larger numbers of pupils, staff and parents being around the school site during the day. As stated on our previous letter, our school had already considered certain practicalities and considerations that would need to be made if and when we were asked to reopen. The basis of any arrangements we make is based on the following key points which is in line with the government guidelines – the link to which is attached below.

- We will follow the guidance given from government around Covid-19 as closely as we are able to. Consideration of our school site and situation must be considered. The de Ferrers Trust and our Local Governing Body will be consulted at all times and any further advice the Trust gives us will be acted upon.
- The Health and Safety of our pupils, staff, parents and visitors is the main priority.
- The school will seek to maintain high levels of hygiene and cleanliness at all times.
- We will minimize the numbers of adults coming onto the school site.
- We will look to minimize children mixing with each other during the day. We will seek to maintain social distancing wherever possible but recognise that this has limitations due to the age of the children allowed to return. The government guidance recognises this too.
- The school will continue to support pupils' educational and well-being needs.
- The school will maintain daily provision for keyworker children and those considered vulnerable.

A key part of our plan is the arrangements we would look to put in place so that we can consider how to staff these. We are looking at having the following in place as stated below. Final details will be issued later this week once we are clearer on expected numbers.

- The maximum number of pupils in any classroom will be 15; there may be less depending on the numbers who decide to come into school. Plans are in place to use all rooms in school, for example, the Reception class will use the classrooms adjacent to their playground to ensure this can happen.



The de Ferrers Trust

- The start and end of the day will be staggered to enable entry into school to be controlled and to maintain social distancing. Should you have a child in Y1 and Reception both can be dropped off at the same time for your convenience. Please make arrangements for only one parent/carer to drop children off.
- Both entrances will be open, including opening the double gates to prevent cross over points on the paths. We will ask parents and carers to ensure social distancing at all times in the playground when collecting their children.
- Each year group/key group will have different entry points into the building.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered. Each class group will have an allocated space outside the building for both their staggered playtime and lunchtime.
- Regular opportunities for handwashing will be in place supervised by staff.
- All children will be allocated their own desk with an individual pack of pencils and classroom equipment. Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible. Surfaces and equipment will be cleaned regularly.
- First aid provision will be in each building. We have separate rooms allocated for first aid should any person in the building display any symptoms; they will not wait in our main office area.
- Children in Year 1, EYFS and FSM will be provided with a packed lunch. The remaining key worker and Year 6 children will be asked to bring their own or pay for a sandwich meal from the kitchen.

The Government guidance has made it very clear that attendance is the decision of parents and carers and that no action will be taken for non-attendance. We fully respect whatever decision you make regarding your child returning to school and understand how difficult a decision it is.

However, as we finalise our plan, key to meeting all of the above points is to understand the numbers of children who might be coming back to school from June 1st. We would really appreciate you completing the short survey below if you are a parent of a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 to indicate whether your child will be in school from June 1st. If this could be done by the end of Wednesday that would be very much appreciated. A text reminder will be sent.

Please do not think that this is binding it is just to give us a guide as we plan further.

We await further guidance on the plans for other Year groups. In the meantime, staff will continue to add to the home learning page and endeavour to keep in touch with you. Please remember the curriculum query email on the website and keep looking at this to gain further updates.

Key worker and vulnerable children will still be welcomed as they have been. If you are a key worker who will now require your child to attend (and your child is not in the year groups identified) please contact the school.

We asked for your patience in the last letter. Please continue to bear with us as we work our way through everything and try to ensure that all our pupils can return to us safely as soon as possible. Staff are juggling their own circumstances as well to achieve the above.

Thank you very much for the many comments of support we have received so far. They are much appreciated. If you have any thoughts or issues you would like to raise with us, please email or ring school. We will endeavor to speak to you as soon as we can. We will write to you again before the end of the week to hopefully finalise arrangements for June 1st.

Yours sincerely

S Webster

Mr S Webster
Principal



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