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Head Teacher
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CC/RCD

21 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on school position 21 May 2020

We hope that you all continue to be safe and well during this difficult time.

As you are probably aware, there is still much confusion and concern about plans to widen the access to school for Reception and Year One pupils, alongside changes in guidance for vulnerable pupils and pupils of key workers.

Alongside the national debate, Sheffield City Council have been meeting to discuss the city's response and last night they released a statement for schools clarifying their position.

<https://sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk/news/sheffield-schools-2/>

We would like to thank you for sharing your concerns and worries in our survey this week. We have asked staff for their thoughts also as it is important that we get these first tentative steps right. We want to keep you fully informed and will share clearer detail about our plans and approach to health and safety as soon as we can, to keep you fully informed. In the background to all of this, we have been considering different eventualities, risk assessments and consulting with other school leaders and experts about the best way forward.

Key Workers and Vulnerable Children

From **2 June 2020**, school **will continue to be open** to priority groups ([vulnerable children](#) and children of [critical workers](#))¹, for full days Monday – Thursday, and half a day on Friday (exact times will be confirmed).

“Now that we have made progress in reducing the transmission of coronavirus we are encouraging all eligible children to attend - it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home if they can. In particular, as per the existing [Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak guidance](#), vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected and encouraged to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so.” (Coronavirus Covid-19 Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings – Gov.UK)

Reception pupils

School will **not be open** for pupils in Reception on 2 June 2020 (unless they are part of the priority groups above). The earliest start date for possible widening of our access to Reception pupils is the 8 June 2020, but only when we are confident that we have risk assessed our plans for wider opening thoroughly. We will confirm this date nearer the time and await government guidance. Should the number of key workers requiring a place increase significantly, we may need to consider a part time rota. With current predicted numbers, we hope to offer full days on Monday -Thursday with a possible half day on Friday.

Year One Pupils

Unfortunately, we are not currently in a position to open school more widely to Year One children. Government guidelines state that infant schools should prioritise children of key workers/vulnerable children first, followed by Reception children. The numbers of children taking up places in these groups mean that due to the physical restraints of our building and number of staff needed we cannot accommodate Year One pupils. This follows government guidance where it advises schools as follows:

'If necessary, settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:

- early years settings – 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups
 - infant schools - nursery (where applicable) and reception
 - primary schools – nursery (where applicable), reception and year 1'
- (Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020 – gov.uk)

Some Things to be Aware of

- a. School dinners will be a grab bag packed lunch only – no hot meals or you can provide your own packed lunch in a labelled, plastic box that has been thoroughly cleaned before it is brought to school.
- b. Some staff may choose to wear PPE – a mask and gloves.
- c. Children should not bring any personal items such as toys, into school.
- d. Uniform is not compulsory but all clothing should be washed at the end of the day and children should not wear the same clothes on two consecutive days if they have not been washed.
- e. Children will be given a pen, pencil and other stationery for their sole use.
- f. If a child displays symptoms of Covid-19, the member of staff dealing with them will wear full PPE – as recommended in government guidelines.
- g. We have been told that track and trace will be in place for all confirmed cases of Covid-19 with testing available for all adults and children in school.
- h. **We will not be able to provide any wrap around care, neither Breakfast Club nor After School Club.** This is because the children must, whilst in school, stay with the children in their group (their bubble) and with specific adults. They must not mix at any time.
- i. Staffing will be pushed to its absolute limit. Any staff absence will mean that we will not be able to have all groups in school.
- j. We will have a very strict timetable for entry and exit to the site that must be adhered to. This will include staggered start and finishing times for **all** groups.
- k. Children will only be able to use entry and exit points to the building that are specific to their bubble and only specific toilets.
- l. Because of the numbers, the need to maintain bubbles of no more than 15 children and difficulties with staffing levels, along with the need to meet the needs of critical worker and vulnerable children first, classes will have to be mixed. This means that it is likely that they will not be in their usual classroom or with their usual class staff.
- m. We are fully aiming to maintain some home learning provision, however this could be impacted and we may not be able to maintain this long term. We may have to signpost you the The Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize and other on-line learning platforms.

We will be in touch again with further details following our thorough risk assessments. Please know that everyone at school is really missing the children, we will continue to move forwards with the health and wellbeing of the children, parents and staff uppermost in our plans.

We hope you all enjoy the half term holiday that begins on Friday. Home learning will not be set during the holiday. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all families celebrating Eid ul Fitr this weekend Eid Mubarek.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Carr

Catherine Carr
Head Teacher