

Broomhill Infant School



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18/05/20

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are all safe and well.

We miss seeing all the children and families and are really keen for the school to be back up and running, but only when it is safe to do so.

As I am sure that you are aware, the Government has sent out guidance for us to start to plan to reopen school from as early as Monday 1st June, given the right conditions. I must emphasise that although 1st June 2020 is the date from when schools may be able to extend their opening arrangements it is by no means certain yet that schools will be able to do so. The decision is one which individual local authorities and schools will take in the light of their specific circumstances.

We are still at the stage of considering how reopening would work at Broomhill. I therefore do not yet know what reopening will look like in our school. In all our planning our principle is to do everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our children, their families and our staff and their families. Possibilities may include a more phased return or a more limited return than the government appears to envisage. We still do not have the final details of their proposals or definitive advice from the Department for Education. Whatever we are told to do we will make a decision based on the health and safety of the school community as well as the educational and social needs of our children and families.

Whilst the Government have named Foundation and Year 1 children as the first cohorts to return to school they have also been clear with schools that we must **continue to prioritise our key worker children and vulnerable children.**

Once we are clearer about the potential number of key worker and vulnerable children who will need a place in school from Monday 1st June we will be able to plan how to organise things for Foundation and Year 1 prioritised in that order, to return.

It is highly likely that for all children, if we are able to return in the way stated by the government, things will be very different from 1st June in the following ways:



- Children will be in smaller social bubbles, no more than 10 (hopefully less) is the government recommendation but this makes 2 metre social distancing very difficult.
- The children will stay with this group all day, every day and will not be allowed to mix with other groups of children at any time.
- Some of the children from each class will not be with their regular teacher.
- Most children will work outdoors most of the time. If the weather is inclement we will only use the downstairs classrooms. Your child may not be in their usual classroom. The curriculum will be very different, especially in Foundation where the use of outdoor equipment will be very limited and there will be no free flow provision.
- Classrooms will be different, soft furnishings like cushions must be removed and the contents and resources minimised so that the highest standards of cleaning and hygiene can be maintained and contact reduced.
- The day will have to be highly structured and strictly timetabled, possibly including times to use the toilet.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and structured so that groups of children do not mix.
- Lunches will be served outside /staggered.
- The start and end of the day will be staggered with clear time slots and entrances for different groups of children. Parents will be expected to stick rigidly to that staggered timetable. This process could take up to an hour.
- Children in Year 1 will need to bring their own pencil and pen in their own pencil case.
- The government, whilst advising that face masks may be worn in public places, shops etc. has said that they are not necessary in schools. Staff or children may choose to wear these if they so wish.
- Children must stay within the same group, in the same space, with the same adult each and every day. With this in mind we will not be running the Breakfast or Teatime clubs until further notice.
- Attendance rates will be tracked, **fixed penalty notices will not be issued should parents decide not to send their child to school during lockdown/interim period. Please be aware this is only for this term**
- Cleaning of handles etc. will go on throughout the day using effective cleaning agents.
- Having said all of the above (which does sound a little grim) we will still try to make school as warm, welcoming and fun as we can.



The ambition to have all children in school for a month before the summer holiday certainly is an ambition!

As I said at the start of this letter we need to know exact numbers so that we can plan the provision, placement of children, staffing, timetables, health and welfare provision, routes around school and the curriculum. We made phone calls to Reception and Y1 parents the week beginning 11/05/20.

When we know the exact numbers and have further clarity from the government we will be able to put plans in to place and let you know what we may, **safely** be able offer from Monday 1st June.

In the meantime, thank you for your incredible support, care and good wishes. We miss you enormously!

To all of you who are key workers, thank you for everything that you do and continue to do for all of us and if you are a frontline NHS worker there are no words for the gratitude that the whole of the Broomhill School community feels for you.

Kindest regards

Catherine Timbers
Head teacher

