



Wednesday 27th May 2020

Dear Parents of Reception Children at John Wilkinson Primary School,

We have been working with the staff and Governors of John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery to formulate a plan for the return of the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes and for the children of Key workers. Whilst designing the plan we have taken into account the detailed advice given by the Department for Education (DFE), the advice of the local authority and teacher unions. We now feel confident that we can open the school on 2nd June 2020 (1st June for key workers) to the additional year groups whilst adhering to the guidance.

We are still waiting for the Governments final announcement on 28th May 2020 as they are clear they will only open if the 5 government tests have been met and it is safe to do so.

Additional Government guidance for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Thank you.

Before we set out these arrangements, we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children from 20th March 2020. We know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

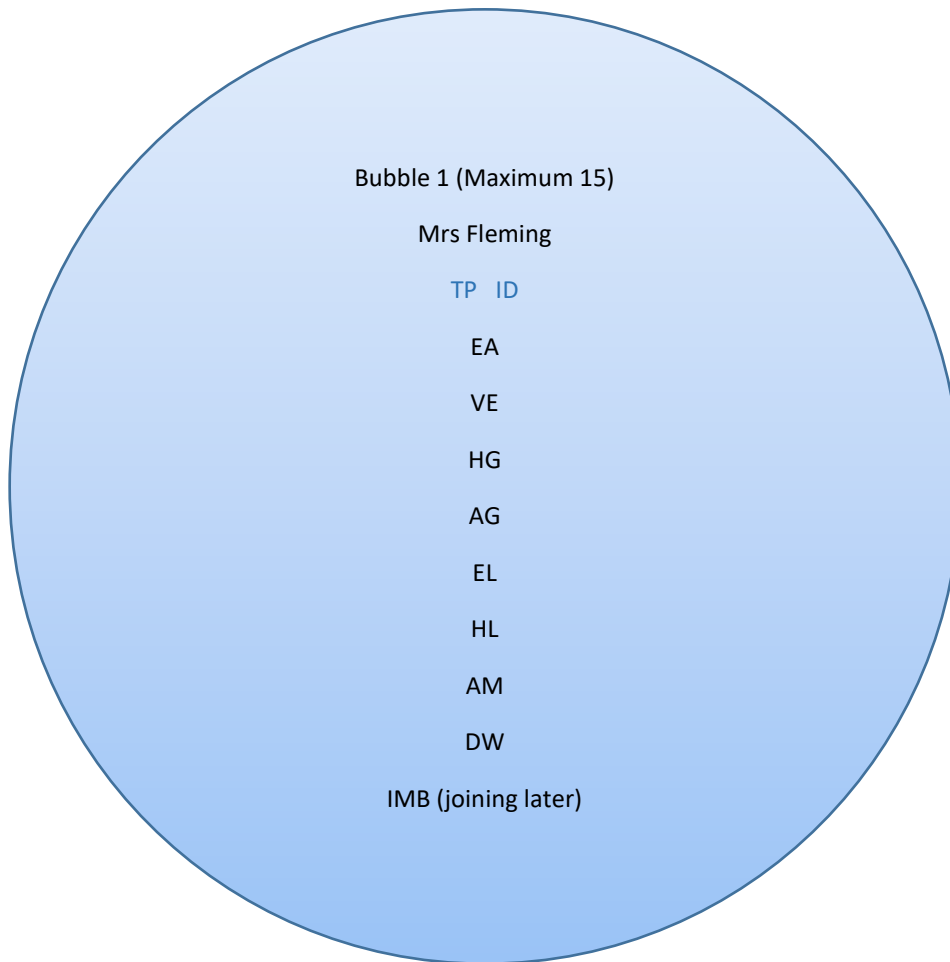
For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend their early years setting. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

We look forward to welcoming the vast majority of children back and making their school experience rich and varied. They will still receive high quality care and education but there are preventative measures added to make sure they are safe.

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As we mentioned in our previous letter we were intending to split children in the Reception class into two smaller groups, which we will refer to as 'bubbles'. Once assigned, the children and staff cannot change to a different bubble, as this will effectively limit contact. Each Reception bubble will have 2 allocated staff and a maximum of 15 children.

Reception class currently has one bubble for the 2nd June 2020. Children returning initials are below.



These are the children returning to school and they form the first “bubble”.

- This bubble will be taught in **Mrs Fleming’s classroom**.

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective. Here is key information for parents who have children returning, it may also be of interest to other parents who are considering what to do in the coming weeks.

The Start and End of the Day.

Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building (with the exception of the foyer) at any time in order to minimise contact.

- Please use Mrs. Fleming’s classroom door for children to enter and exit.
- Arrive between **9am and 9:15am**
- Collect at **3:00pm**
- There will be outside spaces allocated for each bubble to ensure that they can play safely outdoors. Please do not allow your children to play on the school field or equipment whilst waiting.

Please bring:

- Please send a clean water bottle, filled with water, as fountains are not in use.

The staff within each of the bubbles will also actively support the children to limit the risk of infection:

- Frequent hand washing will take place
- Respiratory hygiene (involving coughing, sneezing and tissue use) will be monitored, and carefully regulated by staff. All classes have lidded bins.
- Liquid soap and paper towels are available and we have stocks of these.
- Hand sanitiser is available and we have stocks of these.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and all surfaces will be cleaned at the end of the day.
- Areas will be clearly cordoned off to minimise risk of people from different bubbles coming into close contact (less than 2 metres)
- Practical resources will not be shared between classes. Resources and equipment will be cleaned regularly.
- Children should not bring items from home to school – this includes toys, comforters, large bags etc.
- School books can be returned in a clean envelope or bag.

Toilets.

At times, the children may pass by others in a transient way (e.g. when going to the toilet) but this will be carefully monitored by staff to limit risk.

Children will have time to use the toilet during the morning, and will be allowed access during class sessions. A member of staff will be on hand to ensure good routines are followed. Children will be asked to use specific toilets marked for their “bubble” and then wash their hands carefully.

Clothes.

The children will not be expected to wear their uniform, but should wear practical clothing and footwear (that are suitable for PE). They will need to wear a clean set of clothes at the start of every day to reduce cross contamination. Clothes will need to be appropriate for school and allow children to play indoor or outdoors. Children will need a light coat.

Please apply sun cream before school if it is a sunny day and send children with appropriate sun protection.

Playtime.

Play zones will be marked and children should play in their own zone and not with the children from other Bubbles. Staff will provide games for them to play and help them understand the new rules.

Lunchtime.

The children will remain in their bubble and have a timetabled slot to eat their dinner in the classroom. They will eat their dinner alongside the rest of their bubble and will not be allowed to sit with other children. Handwashing and surface cleaning will be an integral part of this process.

We would encourage all children to eat school dinners but if necessary lunch boxes can be sent to school but these will be wiped with anti-bacterial wipes.

The children will have break times and lunchtimes enabling the usual opportunities for outside play (remaining in their bubbles) in designated areas.

Breakfast Club and After School Club.

We will only be offering this service to the children of Key Workers on the first week of re-opening and then we will review this. All sessions, at the point of school reopening to additional children, will be chargeable at the usual rates.

Hygiene measures.

Strict hygiene measures will be in place and this includes additional lunchtime cleaning from our team of cleaners.

Health and safety.

We will hold additional fire safety drills to ensure children know where to go during evacuation with their bubble.

Classrooms will be well ventilated as advised.

Desks have been spaced so that children are not sat close together.

No assemblies will be held unless in the class “bubble”.

Signage will help you to find out what to do, where to go and how to socially distance.

Remote Learning.

- Larger numbers of teachers and teaching assistants are involved with face-to-face teaching at school so remote education provision for other year groups and those who are eligible, but not attending school at this time will continue to be via the VLE. However, please be aware that due to staffing in school there will be some adaptation. Details will follow.
- We will use existing websites and national resources such as Oak National Academy and other remote education platforms to provide additional support for learning as recommended by the DFE.
- Marking will be less frequent.

Communication.

If you should need to speak to a member of staff, please telephone or ask for an appointment via the school administrators using the lobby. Staff will only meet parents if it is necessary and please adhere to social distancing.

If a child, or adult, shows symptoms of the virus.

If anyone in school displays symptoms, they will be immediately isolated and arrangements made to send them home. If the person is confirmed to be infected with the virus, everyone in that bubble will be enforced to self-isolate for 14 days. School would contact you directly if this affects your child.

Once early years and childcare providers open to more children, all children who are attending a childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to childcare, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Further guidance is available about getting tested.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back into school and hope that the measures that we are putting in place will help provide reassurance that your child’s safety is at the heart of our decision-making during this time.

The government is strongly encouraging parents to send children back to school but if you choose to keep your child at home, you will not currently be subject to any fines and teachers will continue to plan home learning activities.

Remember if you decide to bring your child back to school they will start on a Monday, so we will need to know on the Thursday before they join us so we can adjust the bubbles.

I am sorry that the letter is a list of “please do and please don’t” statements but we need to ensure we have provided the information you require. Please feel free to contact school in you need clarification or have any concerns.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs J Carter

Headteacher

Mrs L Fleming

EYFS lead Teacher