



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents of Reception Children at John Wilkinson Primary School,

As you are aware, the government have announced plans to gradually release the lock down measures in school and we are writing to you about our plans to welcome our Reception children back in from the 2<sup>nd</sup> June (as long as the 5 government tests have been met). We will endeavour to make the school environment as familiar and friendly as possible so the children are as happy as ever to come into school. However, in order to limit contact between children there are a few changes we wanted to make you aware of.

The government states, 'Early years children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff,' so we have made adjustments to limit the numbers of children and staff who are in contact with each other.

Additional Government guidance for parents can be found here:

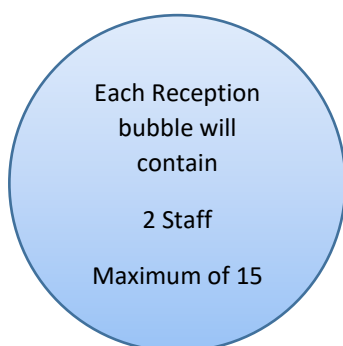
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

The children in the Reception class will be divided 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. We will let you see the list of children in your child's bubble prior to June 2<sup>nd</sup> so that you can check that you are happy that your child has at least one other child that they are happy to play with. At this point, before the children return, changes to these lists could be made but it is important that you contact school as soon as possible if this is the case.

Each Reception bubble will have 2 allocated staff and a maximum of 15 children.

Children will be given their own pencil but some resources will be shared, and regularly cleaned, within a bubble.

The children will not be able to interact (closer than 2 metres) with adults or children from another bubble except in the case of an emergency situation or walking past people (while closely monitored) in the corridors.



**A maximum of 2 Reception bubbles will be operational at any one time.**

Each Reception bubble will be allocated a separate class space to limit social and surface contact. There will also be outside spaces allocated for each bubble to ensure that they can play safely outdoors as well.

Shared outside spaces will also be available for use including forest school and some outdoor classrooms which may be timetabled to different bubbles. Meticulous cleaning will be implemented between different bubbles, to minimise the risk of surface infection.

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
- 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)

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.

### **Lunchtime.**

The children will remain in their bubble and have a timetabled slot to eat their dinner in the hall. 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.

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

### **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.

- Arrive between 9am and 9:15am (There will be a different door for each bubble.)
- Be collected at 3:00pm (From the same door used in the morning.)

### **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.

### **Uniform.**

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.

### **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.

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.

Thank you for your involvement with our consultation. Please feel free to contact school if you need clarification or have any concerns.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs J Carter     Headteacher