



Somerford Primary School

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Headteacher : Mrs H Frampton

19th May 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for your patience as we have undertaken a full and detailed risk assessment in response to the Prime Minister's plans for children in Reception, Year 1 and Y6 to return to school from 1st June.

Since the announcement on 10th May, the government have released multiple guidance documents and their advice has changed and been updated throughout the week. We have worked hard to keep on top of this guidance and have created a plan which we feel will allow us to implement what we are being asked to do as safely as possible.

I would like to stress however, that whilst we feel we can reduce the risk to some degree, we are not able to eliminate the risk completely. If you choose to send your child back to school, you are accepting that some level of risk remains. As you are aware, young children find it very difficult to apply social distancing measures!

When finalised, the risk assessment will be available on the school website for your information.

In order to adhere to the government guidance, school will feel very different for your child and for you. It is important you prepare your child for this.

This letter contains lots of information which is important for you to read. I am sure it will not answer all of your questions but hopefully it will provide you with much of the detail you need. You will receive an individual letter detailing the specifics for your child later this week.

When will our children return?

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will return to school on **Tuesday 2nd June** and will attend for four days each week. Children will not attend on Fridays as we will undertake a deep clean. Teachers will also spend time preparing learning for the following week. **In the week beginning 1st June, children will therefore attend for 3 days.**

The government would like children in Y2,3 and 4 to return before the end of term. We have no details about this yet.

School will remain open for children who are attending the key worker group for all five days.

What should I do if my child is unwell?

If your child is showing any of the symptoms of COVID 19, they must not attend school and must self isolate along with members of their household until they are tested. **Please inform the school as soon as possible if your child is showing symptoms.** Details of how to access a test can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-gettingtested> If the test is negative they can return to school. If the child tests positive they must not attend school but follow medical advice. The school would then contact Public Health England and follow their advice along with detailed guidance already issued to schools.

If your child is unwell with non COVID 19 symptoms, please follow our normal policies and procedures.

Enjoy

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How will children be taught?

We will be operating a 'bubble' system. Children will be placed in groups of no more than 15 and will work with the same teacher and teaching assistant all week in a designated classroom. This means children may not be taught by their usual teacher or teaching assistant. Shared areas such as the library, computer suite and hall will not be used. Children will be taught outside as much as possible. Classroom areas will look different as guidance states soft furnishings must be removed, unnecessary furniture must be removed and desks must be spread out. Children will be given their own individual equipment and will not share. Toys and equipment that cannot easily be cleaned will also be removed. Children will not be able to bring anything in from home (except water bottles and packed lunches clearly named) and will not be allowed to take anything home such as reading books.

We will be spending some time initially ensuring that children understand about social distancing at school we would therefore be grateful if you can talk to your child about this at home over half term.

What will drop offs and pick ups look like?

Government guidance states that only one parent should accompany a child to school and must not enter the school premises, instead, drop off at the gates. To enable this to happen safely, groups will start and finish at staggered times. You will also be asked to drop off either at the main green gate at the front of school or the rear gate near the KS1 playground. This may not be your usual gate or your most convenient one, however, your child will not be admitted unless they arrive at the correct gate. Your child's group teacher and TA will be there to greet them and take them in to school.

Please arrive on time and not early or late and while waiting, please adhere to the 2m markings on the ground. If you do not arrive at the specified time your child may not be able to be admitted in to school as another group of children will be arriving.

Will my child have to wear school uniform?

We do not expect the children to wear school uniform however they may if they wish to. As much learning as possible will take place outside so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately and with appropriate footwear. A dress code will accompany your personal letter. Guidance states that clothes should be changed and washed on a child's return home. Please ensure your child wears clean clothes each morning.

Does my child need to wear a mask?

Government guidance issued states that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended. It goes on to say that if not handled correctly, face masks could inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. As a result, please do not send your child to school with a face mask or covering. Staff will wear appropriate PPE when carrying out first aid or intimate care.

Will the day be the same length?

The lunch break will be reduced by 15 minutes to 45 minutes and the school day will be reduced by 30 minutes to allow for additional cleaning. Therefore, the day will be 45 minutes shorter than usual. We will not be able to offer Breakfast Club or after school clubs.

The timings for the key worker group will not change and remain at 8.30-3.30.

What will lunchtimes be like?

Children in Reception and Year 1 will be offered a free hot meal. Children in Year 6 entitled to Free School Meals will be offered a free hot lunch and the other Year 6 children may order a hot lunch. The kitchen will be offering a reduced menu. Children may bring a packed lunch if they prefer and this must be clearly named. Details on ordering and paying for lunches will be provided later this week. Children will eat their lunches in their designated class areas and then will have outdoor time in their bubbles. Please note outside equipment will not be used.

Will I still be entitled to a food hamper?

If your child is attending school you will not receive a hamper as they will be receiving a free lunch in school. If your child is staying at home you will still receive a hamper. We may not be able to offer a delivery service so please ensure you collect your hamper. More details will follow.

Will my child's class teacher still call me each week?

If your child (or their sibling) is attending school, you will not receive a weekly phone call. If you are regularly communicating with your child's teacher through email, you will not receive a weekly phone call. Other phone calls will be shared between all staff not running a bubble. Therefore, you will receive a phone call but it may no longer be from your child's class teacher. You can still contact your child's class teacher via the class email address.

Will the school still be providing home learning?

We will still provide the weekly timetable and resources as we do now. The children in school will be following this timetable too.

How will the school be increasing hygiene measures and cleaning?

Staff in each group will be ensuring extra cleaning of touch points such as desks, handles and toys. At the end of the day, each area used by the groups will have a full and thorough clean. Children will clean their hands at regular intervals. Children will be reminded of good hygiene processes such as 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and not putting their hands near their mouths. Further details can be found on the risk assessment.

Will the office be open?

The office will be able to take phone calls and emails, but will not be open for parents to attend at this point. Visitors to the school will continue to be limited to essential visits only.

Will the Behaviour Policy be amended?

In line with government guidance the policy will be amended to include specific rules for this unusual return. Specific rules will be included such as following instructions from staff relating to hygiene. Sanctions will be issued for children not following these rules and for any behaviours such as deliberately coughing at someone. The amended policy will be sent home later this week.

Does my child have to attend?

If your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y6 attendance is encouraged but is not compulsory. We will ask you for a definite decision on whether your child will attend by the end of this week. After that, if you wish to send your child in, you will be required to give the school one week's notice as we may need to set up a new bubble. If you inform us your child will attend it is important you contact the school if they will be absent in line with usual school procedures. As previously stated, if you choose to send your child to school, you are accepting there may still be a risk of contracting the virus. You are also accepting that your child may not be taught by their teacher, may be in a different classroom and will have different drop off and collection routines.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy letter. Please remember this is all subject to change if further government guidance is released.

Your child's class teacher will be in contact by the end of the week with more specific information for your child and to ask you for a final decision.

Thank you again for your patience and support.

Best wishes

Mrs Helen Frampton
Headteacher

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