



Friday 15th May 2020

Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

Dear Parents,

It has certainly been an interesting week! Lots to consider as we start to plan for a possible re-opening for specific year groups. I have written separately to parents with children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 this week to begin to gauge initial thoughts whether families are going to send their child back if the school opens in June. So far, the results to the survey are incredibly mixed. Can I please urge parents to respond by Sunday at 8pm. If you are not in these year groups you do not need to do anything yet. Obviously we are incredibly aware of the anxieties parents have and many have emailed me asking further questions, so I thought rather than respond back on an individual basis, I would address the questions here for everyone to see as I am sure they are questions lots of parents are considering:

- Can you put my two children in the same class even though they are in different year groups?** We will be keeping children in their correct year groups and not mixing the ages in order to ensure that they have access to the correct level of learning and resources.
- Can my child be placed in a group with their friend?** This could be an absolute minefield when it comes to grouping the children and one that could potentially cause huge upset amongst the children and parents. We will endeavour to ensure they are with a friend but of course we cannot make any guarantees and it might not necessarily be their best friend they see out of school. Like you, we want the child to feel as happy and comfortable in this very strange time though.
- Can I change my mind as time moves on, e.g. send my child back in mid to end June instead?** Yes. We will continually be checking numbers in each group so if children start back at a later stage they will be placed in a group based on numbers at that point.
- What will the children be learning/doing?** In all honesty it is too early to answer this question. Possibly the work set in the weekly learning plans as well as more project based work, so cross curricular work maybe based around a text or piece of art. This again will depend on the needs of the children when they return. Our first priority will be their pastoral support and gauging what they have been learning at home during the lockdown. We will be providing education as opposed to childcare.
- How many hours will they be doing?** We are aiming to offer full time, but with a staggered start and end of day to stop mass gatherings. The start times will range from 8:30-9:15am and finish times from 2:30-3:15pm. We will notify each group of their times nearer to opening. There will be no breakfast or After School Club to allow for additional cleaning time and the prevention of groups mixing.
- How many people will be coming in and out of the school at any one time?** This will depend of course on how many children are in school. We are planning on giving each age group a different start and finish time. So at the very maximum, 60 children will arrive in one go, but that would be if every single child in a year group came back in June. Only one adult will be allowed to bring them to school.
- Will my child be able to get fresh air outside?** Yes. They will be encouraged to go outside, but stay within their allotted groups. Lunch and breaks will be outside and we hope to have lots of outdoor picnics. The youngest children in Nursery and Reception won't have quite the same element of free flow outside as they normally would but they will still have parts of the day outside.
- Will children in a group of up to 15 be socially distanced from each other?** The Government recognises that this is extremely difficult for young children. Their advice is to spread out the desks as best as we can, but really encourage stringent hand washing and hygiene. Realistically, children naturally want to touch each other as part of their play and everyday interactions (like they have been in our childcare throughout the lockdown) but where we can we will space the children out.
- Will a group be taught by a trained teacher?** The Government says they can be taught by a TA, under the direction of a Teacher. Hopefully we will have enough teachers able to work that groups will be taught by a qualified teacher, but this could change if staff become unwell or are shielding etc. However, our initial plans would suggest it will be a teacher for the large majority of the time.
- My child is currently in Year 1, can he repeat Year 1 next year?** No. We will be adjusting the curriculum in September to meet the children's needs and taking into account this gap in their learning journey.

So now for some specific updates:

Home learning: Here is a little photo montage of snaps taken by staff this academic year of the children. Take a look- the children will love it: <https://youtu.be/m3oUNAoyj3A>

Teachers will be posting on the class blogs, by noon today, next week's work plans for children. Please ensure you are still reading to and with your children as often as possible. <http://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=32>.

Remember, what I wrote in my letter on Monday; there is always the option of Oak Academy if you want more online lessons: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>. ***As we move into the next phase of this lockdown we will be reviewing the home learning for children in Years 2-5, taking into account parental feedback and guidelines for schools.***

Support for parents: Please contact Debbie if you are struggling with anything and she may be able to sign post you to support.

Queensway Face Book page:

- What great VE celebrations some of you had last week- thank you for sending us your photos. <https://www.facebook.com/Queensway-Primary-School-2343858765881705/>
- I have a challenge for you all this week..... email us photos of the most creative place you have read a book, it might be in a tent or a den but please no bath photographs!

Information for families who are in receipt of Free School Meals:

- I can confirm that families will be getting e-vouchers over half term.
- We will be continuing with e-vouchers for families of children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 if the school re-opens in June as these children won't be in school still.
- For families who are choosing not to re-send their Reception, Year 1 and 6 child back to school and they are eligible for FSM we will also attempt to continue the e-vouchers scheme but need to find out more about this.
- Please can I urge families to redeem their vouchers if they haven't already as the money is intended to buy food now for the children, so families don't suffer food deprivation during this tricky time.

Information for Key Workers and vulnerable families using Queensway childcare:

- Half term opening: The school will not be open during half term for Key Worker children in readiness for a partial re-opening on June 1st. There is a huge amount to organise ahead of welcoming back nursery, reception, Year 1 and 6 children. Thank you for your understanding.
- As per the email sent on Wednesday 13th May to particular families, please notify the school office by today at noon with your childcare requirements for next week: office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk.
- I need to point out that if we open in June, unfortunately, we will not be providing childcare from 3-4pm for Key Worker children and the start time will likely be 8:30am as we will need the space in the hall as well as additional time for cleaning etc, but I will confirm this when it is a definite.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you need any further clarification or support.

Keep well and stay safe,

Mrs Sarah Horbury Jakeman
Head Teacher