



Head Teacher: Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents,

Wow, what a hot week! I hope you are all keeping well and managing to enjoy the sunshine whilst juggling all the pressures of home schooling, working from home etc etc. It seems such a long time now since life before lockdown.

The teachers enjoyed another round of phoning all the children. Thank you to all the families who offered kind words of support and encouragement during these phone calls. The vast majority of families said that things were really tough and getting the children to concentrate on the home learning tasks was tricky and getting harder as time goes on. I am sharing this to say to these families you are not alone. Continue to chip away at tasks in small chunks and don't worry if you don't get everything done. Obviously there were also families thoroughly enjoying this time and home schooling is going well for them which is great. Please use websites we have signposted you to for further work if needed.

We have been busy at school this week preparing for the potential re-opening for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. As you can imagine there are lots of uncertainties but we are determined to be ready to welcome back your child. Can I stress though that **the Government are not making the final decision until 28th May if schools are to re-open for those target year groups.**

The main underlying principles for schools to base their plans around are:

- Children and staff have to be placed in a group and the groups cannot mix at all, so if someone in that group got a confirmed case of Covid-19 the whole group would be sent home to isolate for 14 days without compromising the opening of the rest of the school.
- We need to avoid large gatherings of people so the Government have asked us to stagger drop off and collection times.
- We need to implement strict hygiene alongside social distancing where we can.
- The Government have prioritised children of Key Workers (which are now referred to as Critical Workers) and vulnerable children above children in the year groups listed above. Therefore when ensuring schools have enough classrooms to place the groups of up to 15 children in, the Key worker children take priority. At this stage, we do have enough classrooms to open for the target year groups. However, it is important to point out that this could change if the Key Worker groups continue to increase. It could be that at some point we won't have enough rooms and following Government guidance will be forced to send back home Year 6, working down to Nursery children.

With these principles in mind I can confirm the following at this stage, but I will write again next week with more information, but I wanted to give you some information so you can start working out logistics your end:

- We are staggering our return the first week to ensure we can show all the families our new procedures on site in a safe and calm manner. Please check carefully the date below for your child's return:
 - Tues 2nd June Key Workers, Nursery & Reception children
 - Wed 3rd June Year 1
 - Thurs 4th June Year 6
- We will be allocating each year group an arrival and collection time. These will be as follows:
 - Key Workers & Yr 6 8:30-3pm
 - Year 1 8:45-2:45
 - Reception 9-2:30
 - Nursery 9:15-2:30 (Children who do 15 hours in nursery: am session will be 9:15-12 or pm 12:15-3pm)
- We cannot provide any wrap around care as this would be mixing the groups.
- The drop off and collection times must be strictly followed.
- If families have siblings with different drop off and collection times they are to choose one of the times for both children.

- At this stage looking at the available staffing I have, each group will be teacher led with a TA supporting. There will be points in the week where the TAs will lead to enable the teacher to fulfil their home learning responsibilities for families not choosing to send their child to school. This staffing allocation could change over time.
- Each family will get a letter next week confirming which group they are placed in, which room and who their staff members are.
- There will be a one way system in place for moving around the site. The Queensway side entrance will be the way in and the Brantwood entrance will be the exit. Please maintain social distancing at all times, especially in the alleyway.
- There can only be one adult with the child on site to avoid congestion.
- Parents will not be allowed into the buildings at all. If parents need to speak to staff this will be outside at 2metres apart or we ask that parents phone or email the office.
- Children are asked not to wear uniform but casual clothes and trainers instead. No PE kits. This is to avoid unnecessary belongings going back and forth between school and home and so staff aren't having to assist with changing needs, i.e. compromising social distancing. Children's clothes should be changed daily and we would recommend that clothes are placed in a bag on arrival home ready for washing.
- We are continuing to purchase e-vouchers for all Free School Meal (FSM) families, so if your child attends school in June they are expected to bring a packed lunch with the money provided through the e-voucher.
- For children in Reception and Year 1 who are not FSM but are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal we will be providing a brunch bag so it gives us the flexibility to have picnics outside or eat lunch in the classrooms as the hall is not an option as we can't mix the groups. Of course, if you are in Nursery or Year 6 and usually pay for a lunch, this is still available, but it will be a brunch bag instead. This is also the case for Key Worker children, who can purchase a brunch bag.
- There will be a daily circle time session to keep a check on wellbeing and mental health, 1:1 reading and core subjects which will be following similar to the work set on the class blogs for children not coming into school. The afternoons will be used to develop skills and knowledge through more project based activities.
- Each group will be given an allocated break and lunch time so children don't mix on the field/playgrounds.
- We will be operating a zero tolerance approach to children attending who are unwell.
- Children who become unwell during the day will immediately be isolated with a supervising member of staff and sent home. The classroom will be cleaned before children are allowed back in.
- Staff will only wear PPE, i.e. masks, aprons and gloves for intimate care, such as toileting assistance as well as first aid, if a child has to be restrained/held, cleaning or if they are mixing with multiple groups, such as Senior Leaders needing to go into a group to assist who might have just been in another group.
- Following Government guidance, children are not permitted to bring in their own hand sanitisers. We will have sanitisers in every group and will be stringently following a regime of hygiene.
- Children are only allowed to bring into school: a coat, named water bottle, lunch box, sun hat and a named bottle of sun cream. No book bags, toys or anything other than essentials. All belongings need to be taken home at the end of the school day.

We have planned our initial groupings for children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 based on the results from the parent survey. We have placed all the children who said 'yes' or 'maybe' in a group to start with. If you said 'maybe' it is still entirely up to you if you choose to take this place. If you initially said 'no' for your child to return to school in June, but wish to change your mind at any point, you need to ring or email the office so we can assess the group sizes and allocate them a group. Please do not just turn up at school on the morning.

Rest assured, that even though it will be a very different school to the one that children left in March, it will still have the same warm, positive and nurturing staff in it who will do their best to ensure your child is cared for and happy. Things will look strange and different but your child's safety is paramount to us, as is my staff's safety and wellbeing. Together, we will make it work.

So now for some other updates:

Home learning: As we approach half term we will not be setting the weekly work plans but as always parents can use the recommended websites on the class pages as well as the Oak Academy if they wish: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>. Please keep going with the reading. Teachers will be posting the work plan for the first week in June on Friday 29th May.

We will continue the weekly work plans for all year groups next term, even those that are invited back into school as we recognise many families have chosen not to send their child back. I will be writing over the next week or so with further detail about how our provision will be tweaked and enhanced for children in Years 2-5.

Support for parents:

- Here is the latest Mental Health Support team newsletter: [MHST Primary Newsletter 4.pdf](#)
- Please contact Debbie if you are struggling with anything and she may be able to sign post you to support.

Queensway Face Book page: As we are not setting any home learning next week other than reading, I am going to keep going with the existing challenge of emailing us photos of the most creative place you have read a book. Let's see if we can get lots of different places!

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

- *Please see information above.*
- I can confirm that families will be getting e-vouchers over half term and throughout Term 6.
- 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:

- Please ensure you have read carefully the email I sent on Wednesday 20th May about the change of day we need your childcare requests emailed to us..... it is now by Thursdays at 4pm. I also pointed out some other changes such as the new times.
- Please can you only book your child into childcare with us to cover your work hours.

Just to end on.....

Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 18-24 May 2020 and this year's theme is kindness. Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, kindness was chosen as this year's theme because it strengthens relationships, develops community and deepens solidarity, and as has been seen all over the world, kindness is prevailing in these uncertain times. We have learnt that amid the fear, there is also community, support and hope.

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