

16th July 2020

The full opening of schools from the September 2020

The Department for Education (DfE) recently released guidance to schools regarding the return to school for all pupils from September 2020; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We agree that returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing and we look forward to welcoming all children back to school in September. We therefore hope that the following letter sets out clearly how we propose to welcome all pupils back to Kingsway Primary School from Thursday, 3rd September 2020 and that the 'Question and Answer Sheet' hopefully addresses the many concerns that you may have.

Please be assured that the Senior Leadership Team and Governors have thoroughly considered the latest guidance from the DfE and we feel the plan we are putting forward best balances the very many benefits of children returning to school with the need to protect the health and safety of children, their families and our staff.

The government states that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and that there are negative health impacts of being out of school. The government also recognises that school closure has had an impact upon parents' ability to work and that in order for the economy to begin to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work.

Whilst the government's aim is to have all pupils back at school in the autumn, it recognises that every school will also need to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how they will ensure continuity of education. This is something that we have continued to review and develop during lockdown and now as we plan for September and the next academic year.

Protective measures:

The Government continues to recognise that primary children, particularly younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is therefore acceptable for them not to distance within their group. Rather than relying on social distancing, the aim from September is therefore to limit the points at which the infection could be spread by implementing an expansion of the "protective bubble" approach already used.

Public Health England (PHE) advice therefore highlights that schools should build upon the hierarchy of protective measures that have been in use throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Ensure children and adults in school wash their hands thoroughly more often than usual.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Maintain enhanced cleaning programmes, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible



What changes will there be to the day-to-day running of the school?

There are things that we can do as a school to give children and adults more space so that it's less likely for germs to spread. To keep everyone as safe as possible, there will be a range of new measures in place to reduce the chances of transmitting the virus. These largely centre around having more space in classrooms and minimising the equipment that pupils will need to handle.

- The government has asked schools to create 'bubbles' or groups of children to limit the risk of transmission of the virus. From September we will be operating a flexible bubble system. This means that the children will be in class bubbles for the majority of time but will occasionally work in larger, year-group bubbles. On very limited occasions, such as when attending before and after school clubs, small number of children may work with children from other bubbles. This will allow more flexibility with managing the logistics of the school day.
- All children will be required to remain in their year group or class bubble throughout the day and will be unable to interact with others at any time; including break times and lunchtimes.
- There will be staggered start and collection times for each group to ease congestion and manage social distancing on the school site. We also ask that you leave the school site as soon as you have dropped off and collected your child. More detail on this can be found on the Question and Answer Sheet.
- There will be a one-way system around the circulation areas of the school
- Parents will not be able to enter the school building unless they have made an appointment.
- We will not have any 'whole school' events such as assemblies.
- Break times and lunch time will be staggered so pupils do not mix with pupils outside their year group bubble.
- Pupils will only use the toilets in their phase bubble area. Toilets will be closely supervised and only pupils from the 'Phase Bubble' will be able to use the toilets in that area. Toilets will be accessible at all times, but we will encourage their staggered use to reduce the numbers of children at any one time.

Risk Assessment

The schools COVID-19 Risk Assessment will be updated and posted on the school website and along with the Question and Answer Sheet hopefully many of your questions will be answered.

I hope that, despite the amount of information, you have a clearer idea as to how we are proposing to welcome all pupils back to school.

Please do make contact if you are uncertain about anything and we will try our hardest to answer your questions.

May I take this opportunity to say thank you for all of the support you have given to the school this year, and for your amazing endeavours with the home learning. It has certainly been an unusual time for us all and whilst difficult at times, I hope we take away some of the positives, such as appreciating the opportunity to spend more time with family, respect for each other and a slightly slower pace of life.

Yours sincerely,



Mr L Pajak
Headteacher



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