

## **Important Information**

Wednesday 20th May 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

At Worsley Mesnes Community Primary School the safety and well-being of our children, community and staff is our top priority. As a parent, I naturally share all of your safety concerns but as a Headteacher I am also concerned about our children's wider well-being. Clearly this is a very difficult balance as the virus has not gone away and we need clarity in planning to minimise the risks.

**Wigan Local Authority has advised that schools do not open before the 8<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest and this date will be under continual review.**

Myself and senior leaders in school have formulated a plan, looking in depth at the implications and risk assessments of how to implement the recommendations. This plan will continue to be reviewed and updated and layers of detail added as we get closer to any possible reopening.

### **Year groups in first phase of wider opening:**

**Reception and Year 1 children will return to school first with a provisional return timescale for Year 6 and Nursery. This is will be continually reviewed in light of guidance.**

In order to re-open school safely, we will need to introduce year groups in a phased manner starting with some year groups in addition to our key worker/vulnerable children attending first, and then adding other year groups in order to effectively manage the increase in numbers.

**To be clear, there is no obligation for children to attend school this summer term and fines will not be issued.**

**A child must not attend if unwell.**

### **Provisional Dates for re-opening:**

- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
\_School will remain closed to all pupils except Key Worker/ Vulnerable children.
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
School re-opens for Reception Children
- **Tuesday 9th June 2020**  
School re-opens for Year 1 children
- **Provisional return date for Year 6 starting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**
- **Provisional return date for Nursery starting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

- **On Friday at 12:30pm each week, school will close to all children including key worker and vulnerable children.** This is for a whole school deep clean and to provide staff with planning, preparation and assessment time.
- The school will **not be able to offer Breakfast Club/After School** provision for the children, as they are not allowed to mix groups.
- At this stage, brothers and sisters in other year groups **WILL NOT BE** eligible to return to school.

We will provide further information regarding which 'pod/bubble' your child has been allocated to and the drop-off/pick-up time for your child.

### **Differences to the curriculum and the school day**

- Our initial focus when children return is keeping safe, routines and hygiene, alongside their mental health and wellbeing.
- Start times and finish times will vary from the normal school day.
- Groups from each class will be given a specific entrance classroom door to use. Parents will be asked to drop their child off at their designated area and not linger around the gate, they will be expected to follow and respect social distancing guidelines. It is also requested that parents do not arrive too early for school to avoid waiting in large groups. If a parent needs to speak with a teacher this will need to be done via e-mail or phone call.
- The children will work in their self-contained groups - 'pods/bubbles'.
- These groups of children will not mix at any time which reduces the number of children and staff that they will come into contact with during the school day. There will be no flexibility in the groupings and children cannot change groups at any times, this will ensure the safety of the children and adults.
- Children will have the same staff members each day and will not mix with other staff members. This means that not all children will have their usual class teacher or teaching assistant and maybe taught by another member of staff. They may also be taught in a different classroom than they are usually taught in.
- Children will be spread around the school and each 'pod/bubble' will have its own room and allocated times for playtime and lunchtimes.
- As children get used to their setting and new routines, they will start to access more structured learning with a strong focus on Maths and English. **The provision in school will be the same as the online learning that will also be available to children at home.**
- The children will work in one book throughout the day or use worksheets. Whilst teachers will not be allowed to take books home for marking, they will give children verbal feedback about their work.
- We will not be teaching the children using our normal teaching techniques. Modelling and instruction will be at a distance, rather than at table tops, and children will not be able to work with others.
- Children will sit at their own desk and have their own resources.

- Children will eat school dinners in the classroom that they are being taught in: this is to prevent the mixing of pods/bubbles in the Hall. They will be allowed to go to an allocated toilet one at a time.
- School dinners will be in the form of a Pack Lunch Bag. If you send your child in with a packed lunch, it will need to be sent in disposable packaging, as we will not allow lunch boxes to come into school and go home. Initially there will be no hot meals served due to the difficulties of serving food in the classroom and the risk of contaminating groups. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, they will still receive this.
- The guidance recognises that for young children it will be difficult to apply the 2m rule. However, we will be directing the children regarding their physical contact with each other in order to keep them safe. "We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff." (Gov.UK)
- We will seat the children as far away as we can from each other and remind children at all times that they have to socially distance from each other. This is, however, difficult with small children and there will be times that children naturally gravitate towards each other. The current guidance states, "Desks should be spaced as far apart as possible". We will try our best with the space within the classrooms that we have.
- We will not be allowing visitors into school unless they are absolutely necessary and they will be kept away from the children. All other meetings can be conducted virtually.
- Surfaces within the classroom will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Fresh clean clothing needs to be put on each day as the virus can be transmitted via fabric. We are aware that many families will not have sufficient uniform for this and so we have agreed to relax our uniform rules so that children can attend wearing trainers and either uniform, own clothing or a mixture of both.
- Children will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day and will have access to hand sanitizing gel in an emergency where they cannot immediately wash their hands.
- All unnecessary furniture will be removed from the classrooms, alongside soft furnishings and toys: this is because they are difficult to clean as stated in the Government guidance.
- Children will not be allowed to bring in their school bags or any items from home, with the exception of a labelled water bottle and coat. Water bottles should be washed thoroughly on a daily basis.
- School will carry on delivering and providing emergency First Aid for the children as we do now, but it will be necessary for staff members to wear PPE while completing First Aid to protect the children and themselves. This also applies to any intimate care.
- If a child is unwell and is showing any symptoms of the virus they will be immediately isolated away from the other children and taken to an allocated room, (this room has been cleared for this purpose) and a phone call home will be made asking you to immediately collect your child. The child will then wait in isolation for their parent to collect them; we would ask for you to collect your child promptly. An adult will stay with them and will wear PPE to reduce the risk of the virus spreading to the adult.

- All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display any symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to school. Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their 'bubble' will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- We will try to encourage the children to use good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.
- We will not be sending any reading books home and children should NOT bring their school bag into school.
- Children must continue to follow school rules, but, in addition must follow staff instructions in relation to social distancing and hygiene measures. If a child deliberately decides not to follow instructions of any staff member and puts others at risk, a separate risk assessment will be conducted on the child, which will determine if the school can support their needs on site.
- For children with SEND an individual risk assessment will be carried out for them before they return with their group.
- We would request that parents and families adhere to all of the governments guidelines regarding social distancing, this will reduce the risk coming into school.
- We will continue to evaluate our risk assessment and it may be appropriate to shut parts of the school depending upon different circumstances - this may relate to the number of cases, staff absences, staff shortages and any other factors that may make it unsafe or unmanageable for all parts of the school to remain open. In some cases, it may be necessary to shut the school entirely.
- In bringing your children to school, it will be essential that social distancing is still observed for adults and we insist that you **DO NOT GATHER** outside school but drop off/pick up quickly and return home to minimise risk. Only one parent per child should attend.

### **Provision for Key worker children**

#### **Identified families and children of key workers**

We will continue to provide a place for these children right through until the end of the academic year on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

N.B. School closed to all children May 25<sup>th</sup> – May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Parents who have not used this service up until now will be required to provide evidence of key worker status from their employer and request days through the school office.

If you have any questions or queries of an URGENT nature, please contact the office

Yours faithfully

Mr David Worthington  
Headteacher