



Newton's Primary School

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Together we reach for our personal best

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well.

Whilst we are desperate for all children to return to school and to get school back to normal we are governed by the guidance of the government. We still consider that the safest place for your child is at home safe with you. I am sure you are all as confused as we are with the very different reports online, in the media and indeed coming from the government.

As you are aware the government and DFE have advised that schools are aiming to reopen to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from June 1st 2020. The government have stated they will make the decision based on science and data on **28th May 2020**. Key worker children will return on 1st June 2020 and we anticipate that other pupils will begin the return to school on **8th June 2020**

The reopening of school will also be subject to risk assessments and ensuring that the school is safe and that we have the capacity in the staff team to reopen. I am sharing the information with all of you in the event that other year groups will be back soon after. We await a final decision from the government but we have gone ahead to plan what school is likely to be like when we reopen.

I am sure you can appreciate that school will not be returning to our usual provision due to the extensive guidance and advice we have to consider. The following I hope outlines what the children and you can expect when the children return. Please can you go through this with your child so that they know what to expect.

- The guidance recognises that in schools it will be impossible to ensure that children stay 2 metres apart from each other. This is for 2 reasons - children will inevitably find it hard to socially distance when they see their friends and teachers who they have not seen for a period of time and also in order to try and get all the children in these year groups into school the government are asking for classes of no more than 15 children. **Whilst we will be trying to maintain social distancing I cannot guarantee that children will maintain the social distancing as they naturally gravitate towards each other.**
- The guidance says that the children and teachers should remain in their 'bubble' of 15 each day and on subsequent days – this means that in a normal class of 30 half the class will be with a different teacher and potentially not with their friends, who may all be in the other 'bubble'. It will not be possible to swap teachers each day so if your child is in a bubble with a different teacher they will remain in this bubble until the government update the guidance. I have significant concerns about how this will impact on some children who may think they are missing out on not seeing their usual teacher and their friends. (Indeed in some classes no children will be with their usual staff members as I have some staff who are unable to attend school for medical reasons)
- At this time, we are offering part time provision to ensure that we have the appropriate number of staff to reopen the school safely. Nursery and Reception pupils will attend on Monday and Tuesday and Year 1 and Year 6 will attend on Wednesday and Thursday.

Attendance Days					
Day	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 6	Keyworker children
Monday	Attend	Attend	HOME LEARNING		Attend
Tuesday	Attend	Attend	HOME LEARNING		Attend
Wednesday	HOME LEARNING		Attend	Attend	Attend
Thursday	HOME LEARNING		Attend	Attend	Attend
Friday	HOME LEARNING		HOME LEARNING		Attend

- Drop off and collection - the guidance says that children should be dropped off and collected at separate times to other children not in their bubble. We will begin drop off with sibling groups. The guidance also states that only one parent can drop children off. We advise that pupils in Year 6 are dropped off and collected to avoid them gathering outside of school as they need to remain socially distanced. Please see the table below for Drop and pick up times and locations.

	Drop off time	Drop off Location	Pick up time	Pick up location
Sibling Groups	8.50am	Nursery	3.00pm	Nursery
Nursery	9.00am	Nursery	3.10pm	Nursery
Reception	9.10am	RM Classroom Door	3.15pm	RM Classroom Door
Year 1	9.00am	1H Classroom Entrance	3.00pm	1H Classroom Entrance
Year 6	9.10am	6M Entrance	3.15pm	6M Entrance
Keyworker children	8.45am	Main Office	3.15pm	Main Office

- We will be operating a one-way system into and out of the school grounds. The entrance will be the gate on Walden Avenue and the Exit will be through the Nursery Gate. There will be stars on the playground surface from the gate to the Entrance points into school placed 2 metres apart to assist you in remaining socially distant on the playground. Please ensure you use the stars and keep yourselves safe from each other.
- We cannot mark out social distance on the pavements surrounding school please be vigilant of each other and keep 2 metres apart.
- Staff are highly likely to be wearing face masks. Parents need to decide if they wish for their children to wear a face mask.
- As the guidance states that children cannot swap between bubbles we would be unable to run any form of Breakfast Club or After School Club facility.
- Each child will have their own stationary and books in their own trays or wallets to reduce cross contamination.
- Again due to keeping bubbles apart, children will have to have staggered lunchtime and break time. This will need careful planning to ensure they don't come into any contact with other bubbles.
- We will not be able to contact parents by phone as often as more pupils will be in school so therefore more teachers will be in school. Please call us or email us if you need anything at any time.
- Nursery pupils will be expected to remain for the whole of the day.

- The guidance says that no soft furnishings or toys can be used, and any toys should be thoroughly washed down and cleaned between each bubble using them. Sadly, children will not be able to use the outside larger play equipment e.g the trim trail. Each bubble will have outdoor equipment for break times.
- The end of Year 6 that children would normally receive will sadly be different. Please rest assured that we will endeavour to do something with Year 6 when we are in a better position to do so.
- Your child will find out their staff members on the day they return. We cannot send this out before they return as staffing changes daily due to self-isolation etc. Your child will have a different staff team each week they attend on a fortnightly rota.
- Parents and pupils will be asked questions on entry to school each day to check for any symptoms.
- Each bubble will have toilets allocated to them that will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Children do not need to wear uniform we appreciate they may have grown out of uniform and we know this is difficult for parents to buy. Please ensure they are wearing trainers as they will need appropriate footwear for outdoor activities. They will not need a PE kit they will remain in the same clothes throughout the day.
- If your child is bringing a packed lunch with them, it needs to be in a throw away paper or plastic bag as items will not be coming home from school. Children will not be able to bring packed lunch boxes that are not disposable. Your child does not need a water bottle we will provide each child their own cup for water during the day.
- We will not be sending anything home with the children including reading books. Please source your own books for your children or use online resources to read with them.
- When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.
- 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. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.
- Parents will not be permitted into the school buildings. If you need to communicate with the school please do so by phone or email or by talking to staff from a social distance at the entrances and exits.
- Home learning will still be planned for children continuing to learn from home.
- In summary:-
- These are the current plans and are likely to change at any time dependent on further guidance from the DFE and the Local Authority or if our Risk Assessments need us to change them.
- The safest place for your child continues to be at home.
- Children who are in the clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable group should remain at home as this is the safest option.
- Pupils will be in bubbles of no more than 15 pupils.
- Pupils will not be with their normal friendship groups due to pupil groups being smaller.
- It is highly likely that your child will not be in their normal classroom and will not have their normal teacher.
- You will not be fined if you choose not to send your child back to school.

- The curriculum will be different to normal curriculum delivery as not all resources will be available to the children to prevent the spread of the virus.
- If your child has an EHCP it is highly likely that the support they receive will not be their normal support.
- I cannot eliminate the possibility that your child may be exposed to the virus at school
- I cannot guarantee that children will keep a social distance from your child at all times. They are children they naturally gravitate towards each other and towards staff.
- Pupils will have staggered drop off and pick up times to avoid parents congregating in the playgrounds and putting themselves at risk.
- We have not as yet received guidance when remaining year groups are expected to attend school in the future.
- Pupils will continue with regular handwashing practice that was in place before the closure.
- The safety of your child and the safety of staff will remain the priority at all times.
- If your child is suspected of displaying symptoms they will need to be collected from school immediately.

School will be closed next week in order to give us more time to prepare for the reopening. If you need anything whilst school is closed please email on the office email office@newtons.havering.sch.uk.

There will be no home learning planned for next week as it is the half term break so we hope you enjoy some family time, let's hope the weather is kind and you can enjoy some outdoor fun, in line with current government guidelines.

Finally, please remember that we are still awaiting the final decision by the government. Once we have the final decision we will inform you if school is definitely reopening from June 1st. We anticipate that pupils will begin the return to school on **8th June 2020**.

I am sure you will still have a number of questions and concerns. Please bear with us, this is all new to us too and we are trying to make sense of it all. Thank you for your continued patience and support we are so grateful that you understand how difficult this is for us all.

Stay safe and take care and enjoy the holiday time with your children.

Best wishes,

H McClenaghan
Executive Headteacher
Una Connolly
Interim Headteacher