



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Dear Parents and Guardians of key worker children and children in Reception, Year1 and Year 6,

Following on from Mr Evans' letter from the trust, I have put together a letter with further information. Please don't read this and panic as further information will be sent out this week, this is just to try and begin to explain in further detail what the return to school will look like for Ferndale.

I would like to start by seconding what Mr Evans has said about the fantastic job you are doing at home and thanking you for your ongoing support during this period. I know this is a very difficult and challenging time and every family has their own commitments as well as trying to educate their child/ren. Please, please, please don't worry about how much or how little you are managing to do. Any is wonderful and we fully appreciate it. We will, as we always have done and always will, support your child in covering any areas they have missed.

Anyway onto the important part (remember there will be more to follow)...

Our Senior Leaders and Governors have been working hard, alongside The Blue Kite Academy Trust, to see how we can facilitate the Government's decision to send children, from the above mentioned groups, back to school no earlier than June 1 2020 in groups no bigger than 15. Following our communication last week, we believe we now have a clearer idea of the number of children we are expecting. Approximately two thirds of each cohort will be returning to school and this is in addition to a large number of key worker children. If you have not yet replied yet to let us know whether your child will be returning please do so ASAP.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further Government guidance.

We would like to make clear from the outset, we cannot guarantee social distancing will be maintained – evidence from running classes for the children of key workers has shown this to be impossible, but we will implement all reasonable measures possible, in line with Government advice.

If Government and Union guidance is that we are in a position to reopen school on Monday 1 June, your child would be able to attend for two consecutive days. They will either attend Monday and Tuesday, or Thursday and Friday. This is to maintain smaller group sizes and to ensure appropriate cleaning each Wednesday before a new group of children arrive.

If your child is attending because they are vulnerable or a keyworker child then they are currently able to continue to attend fulltime. However, we will be contacting you further as your child will need to be in only one bubble, we will explain this further in a separate letter.

We are not in a position to cater for specific requests for days on which children can attend. We will ensure that siblings attend on the same days. It is important that parents understand that their child is unlikely to be taught by their class teacher and may not be in their own classrooms. We will email parents to inform them of the days on which their child/ren can attend school at a later point.

We have created a detailed plan that takes into account Government recommendations.

Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Increasing hand washing and insisting on high levels of personal hygiene
- Staggering break times
- Zoning areas of the school, including outdoors, for specific year groups
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Moving to a 'grab and go' lunch system where children who require one will have a packed lunch provided that will be delivered to their designated rooms (you can of course provide your own packed lunch for your child)
- Creating 'bubbles' of staff and children. We will seek to reduce different groups of people mixing wherever it is possible to do so
- Children will be allocated a designated classroom
- Minimising the amount of equipment or resources that children use that cannot be cleaned.

Please understand, this is not 'school as normal'. Your child will need your support to help them prepare for the very different environment they will be coming in to and the different experiences they will have. Please talk to them ahead of time. Some staff will be wearing personal protective equipment and children will be cared for by staff who are unfamiliar to them.

It is essential that if your child, or anyone in your household, is unwell and presenting with any symptoms that they stay at home. A non-touch thermometer will be used to check children's temperatures if we are concerned about their wellbeing. If in doubt, we will contact you to arrange for you to collect your child immediately.

All children will be required to use hand sanitiser when they first arrive at school.

The car park will remain closed for all parents unless a valid blue badge is displayed. In addition, we would request that only one parent brings their child, and collects from, school. It is essential that parents supervise their children when waiting to come into school and ensure that social distancing is maintained.

We ask that parents do not come into school to speak to office staff. Please telephone or email if absolutely necessary.

From Monday 1 June we would ask that all children (including keyworker children) wear school uniform. Children will need to bring their own water bottle. If children would like a morning snack they will need to bring this from home. Tuck shop/fruit will not be available.

We would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home.

We will keep you updated once we know more about when schools will be able to reopen for other year groups.

If your child will remain at home beyond 1 June, we will continue to support you and them with home learning, and meal support for those eligible. Please do continue to stay in touch with us about how your child is getting on.

Thank you for your continued support, help and understanding during these unprecedented and unsettling times.

Yours sincerely or as I finish with the children, keep smiling (even when said child points out, you may be a teacher, but you're not my teacher and my teacher wouldn't do it like that 😊)



Miss Liz Horrobin