PROVISIONAL PLANS FOR WIDER OPENING

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family well, and that you are managing to cope with the current situation as best as you are able. We are missing everyone terribly and it has been a very hard few weeks trying to manage the challenges we have faced.

I believe it is important to be open and transparent with you all about where we currently are at the moment, and it is for this reason that I want to share with you our initial thoughts following the recent Government announcements regarding the planned phased return to school should the rate of infection continue to decline.

Our priority has to be the safety of children, families and staff and as I am sure you will appreciate this is made more difficult by the many unknowns and uncertainties that still exist around the Covid-19 virus. We are in the initial stages of processing this latest government guidance and applying it to World’s End, considering the physical space we have for this increased number of pupils and the staffing that we have available, whilst maintaining the recommended 2 metres of social distance.

As I’m sure you are aware, our school has remained open every day (including all school holidays) for key worker children and others in specific groups where attendance at school has been recommended. We have informed this group that school will be closed to everyone during half term week so that we can begin to plan our way forward. Provision for Key worker childcare will resume on June 1st, but school will be closed for staff training on Friday June 5th.

Although not determined as yet, provision for the remainder of the Summer Term would certainly not be on a normal basis; children will need to be split into smaller groups, separated from the rest of their year group, and taught by a teacher who may not be their usual member of staff. The curriculum will also be very different to avoid where possible the sharing or resources and mixing of children and the timetable of the school day will need to be adapted as well, including drop-off and collection arrangements - there is a lot to consider. To obtain a fuller picture of what provision is going to look like, please read the FAQs carefully.

I am over the next few days talking with Mrs Wilford (Headteacher of World’s End Infants), seeking advice from the Local Authority and planning with the school leadership team to create a plan for a potential wider opening from 8th June for children in Y6. I will share with you the reality and the provision that we can actually offer. It will then be respectfully left to you as parents to consider this and make appropriate decisions for your child and your family. There will be no consequences for
families who choose for their children to remain at home during the remainder of the Summer Term, and I will of course respect the decision that you decide to make. Although the government have shared their ‘ambition’ that ALL primary pupils are expected to return before the summer holidays at this current point in time, we do not believe this to be safe.

To assist with our planning for the possible wider opening to Year 6 pupils, we are asking that parents of Year 6 children let us know by 5pm on Thursday May 21 if they would like a place for their child from June 8th by emailing enquiry@worldsend.bham.sch.uk. Key worker parents and those of children who have been coming to school since March will also need to let us know if they would like this provision to continue.

Your thoughts as parents and carers are crucial at this time and will help us with the planning process. The survey we sent to you last week indicates that currently, many of you intend to keep your children safely at home. We would support you in doing this and await the government publication of the scientific evidence that supports their decision in asking schools to return.

I have included some answers to queries that have been raised by parents, if you have any urgent questions please do get in touch via our school email: enquiry@worldsend.bham.sch.uk. In the meantime, I will keep you updated on any decisions or changes to what is planned, and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back into school as soon as it safe to do so.

Kind regards

Allison Owens
Head Teacher

Coronavirus June Re-opening Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

When will the final decision about re-opening schools be made?
We understand the decision whether to re-open schools will be taken by the government on May 28th.

What is World’s End Junior School’s timeline for re-opening?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>What is happening?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th May 2020</td>
<td>School open for key worker and vulnerable children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th May 2020</td>
<td>School CLOSED to all pupils for half term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 4th June Friday June 5th</td>
<td>School open for key worker and vulnerable children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th June</td>
<td>School closed for staff training</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Proposed wider opening for key worker, vulnerable and Y6</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>We will close at 12.30 on a Friday for staff PPA time</strong> (planning, preparation and assessment)</td>
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How can children be expected to socially distance?
The government documents imply that all risks have been assessed without the need for social distancing. It is very unlikely that the children will remain 2m away from each other at all times, but it will be encouraged by the staff. Markers on the floor and removing half of the desks from classrooms will help with social distancing inside.

The main risk control for the children is that they will be put into smaller self-contained groups, known as ‘bubbles’. They will remain in these smaller groups throughout the day and will not mix with children from other bubbles. We estimate that the maximum bubble size is likely to be approximately 8 – 12 children with 2 members of staff working on a two-week rota system. The staff will stay the same for each bubble and therefore the children may not have their usual teachers. Bubbles will have separate play space, and initially will use a specific set of toilets to avoid any cross contamination.

The government say you will have groups of 15 children. How will you fit these in?
We can’t. Having measured the distances in all of our classroom types, the average number of children permissible would be 8 – 12 children and a member of staff in each classroom bubble.

What will happen once you reach the maximum number of children in a bubble?
If possible, we will open up another bubble using a separate space if its available. If the demand for places is high, we may have to prioritise certain children so that safety is maintained.

I have a vulnerable child at home with severe asthma. How can you ensure her sibling attending school will not put them both at risk?
We will not be able to guarantee that.

How can I safely get my child to and from school with other siblings needing to come?
You would need to bring any other siblings with you to drop your child off at school and remain socially distanced from other children and parents.

Would the children have to wear mask and gloves?
No, the use of gloves and masks has not been recommended by the government.

How is social distancing to be ensured between parents during school pickup and drop off?
We are planning a staggered start to the day and there will be a one-way system used to minimise any crossing between people. A staggered pick up will also be used.

Is there going to be sanitisation/deep cleaning periodically of surfaces?
Yes

What about hand washing/hand sanitisation for staff and children? Will there be enough hand sanitiser?
All classrooms have cold water and soap. All toilets have hot water and soap. We have plenty of disposable towels for drying of hands. Parents are free to send their child to school with their own hand sanitiser if they wish. We have introduced a hand sanitiser station in the main entrance for adults to use when they enter the building and will source additional sanitiser where possible.

A study has shown that BAME population is more at risk of having a severe disease. Will there be special consideration for BAME children?
We are awaiting additional guidance on this question.
Is it going to be 5 days a week/normal school time?
We are being asked to open in June for all Y6 children, full time. The timings will be slightly different due to the staggered start/ends of the school day. **We will close at 12.30 on a Friday for staff PPA time** (planning, preparation and assessment)

Will you re-start Breakfast and after-school clubs?
No, to avoid cross contamination of the children in separate bubbles, it will not be possible to re-start Breakfast/after school clubs at this current time.

Will we lose our school place there if we disagree with government advice and choose to home-school a little longer?
No, attendance at school is currently voluntary. No fines will be issued for non-attendance.

Are teachers/children going to be tested?
No, there are no plans to test unless a person becomes symptomatic.

Is it going to be compulsory to send your child to school?
No.

Will my child be expected to wear school uniform?
Yes.

In the event of my child returning in June what reassurances can the school provide around the children’s safety?
We will be carrying out a range of risk assessments over the coming days and will share these with you on our school website.

How confident is the school that they can implement social distancing across the school, without leaving my child exposed?
We cannot minimise the risk completely but will follow all of the government advice provided.

How confident is the school that they can ensure all the children wash their hands regularly and sanitise?
Relatively confident. Children got into a good habit before the lockdown began. With reduced numbers in school this should be possible to re-start and maintain.

Will the school have regular cleaning and disinfecting of desks, door handles etc?
Yes

What procedures will the school have in place should a child show symptoms for Covid 19?
The child will be placed into isolation with a member of staff using PPE. They will then be sent home and recommended for testing. The child will remain at home for the following 14 days. If the test is positive, the whole bubble will need to isolate at home for 14 days, along with their families.

What will the dinner arrangement be?
Children will eat their dinners in their bubble classroom. They can bring their own packed lunch or have one provided by the school.

Will outdoor play be cancelled?
No, outdoor play and learning will be encouraged. We plan to divide the field into smaller sections and each bubble will have their own space.
How will children be kept apart at break times?
Children will be reminded of the rules - they can only play with people from within their bubble.

How will teachers comfort our children if needed?
There is a recognition that children may need to be comforted at some point within the day. Limited amounts of PPE will be provided for the staff in order to do this (masks and gloves).

Will you receive any hand sanitisers from the local authority?
Probably not.