



19.5.20

Dear Parents

Plans are underway to allow more children to attend school in June. In order to finalise them, it would be useful to have some indication as to the number of children we may expect.

I am prioritising the children of key workers and Year 6 pupils in the first instance. I would then be looking at reintegrating Year 1 children. If you are a key worker, if you have a child in Year 6 or in Year 1, it would be very much appreciated if you could let us know if you are intending to send your child into school.

I know it will be difficult for you to decide about whether you would be prepared to send your child into school without a clear idea of the provision on offer, so I am sharing our plans as they stand now. Guidance is changing daily so I am loathed to give a finalised plan as it could be subject to numerous changes before June.

Year 6 pupils

We are planning to spread pupils across 6 classes in groups of 7 to 8. They will be partnered with another group of 7 to 8 for break times. They will be staffed by 2 members of staff to cover breaks and to ensure regular cleaning. The classrooms will be organised to ensure 2m social distancing. Each classroom will have a cleaning station. The focus for Year 6 children will be transition activities and I am working with the Learning Village to look at creative ways in which this can be achieved.

Key Worker Children

We know that we have over 100 children whose parents are key workers (Nursery to Year 6) so this is the group most difficult to plan for and is the reason why I cannot offer to other year groups until I have a better idea of numbers.

We are looking at using the end classroom in Key Stage 1 and the KS1 classrooms for the children of key workers. I am aiming to provide an environment that allows for 2m social distancing, with small groups of children with at least 2 members of staff. I may need to use the Early Years areas. This would allow for staggered breaks and regular cleaning. These classrooms will also have cleaning stations.

Children of Key workers whose children are in Year 6 will be in the Year 6 groups. We will be following the home learning timetable so that there is equity across the school community and to support mixed aged groups. A team of adults has been identified to work with these children.

Year 1 Children

If I have the capacity, I will be able to offer places to children in Year 1, using the Reception classrooms. I will aim to have small groups and each classroom will have its own cleaning station. A team of adults known to the children have been identified to work with these children. This is dependent on the availability of staff and classrooms and in turn on the number of children in other year groups whose parents are key workers who attend. Again, we are looking at how we can provide equity in access to the curriculum when planning activities.



Children learning at home

There will still be many children who are learning at home. I have identified staff who will be able to plan home learning opportunities and to ensure that there is alignment with the in-school offer.

There are many other logistical issues to consider. As I type this, the Government has stated that school dinners should be provided for children in school. This is going to be very difficult for us as I will not have a fully staffed kitchen. It will also entail increased movement around school and a lengthy staggered lunch break. I am hoping that many parents would be willing to provide their child with a packed lunch. We would continue to offer support for children who receive free school meals who are attending school and who are working at home.

For those who attend, we will be open for full days. There will be staggered start and finish times and we are proposing that we will close at mid-day on a Friday to allow for deep cleaning before the beginning of the next week.

I hope to have finalised plans out to you all by Friday and am working hard to complete all the necessary risk assessments. These plans will detail drop off and collection details.

I am extremely grateful to all staff who are engaging with discussions so that we can move forward collectively. They are truly superb and I thank them.

It must be noted that we are inundated by updates and reviews. This means that my initial plans are still subject to change.

If you are a key worker or have a child in Year 6 or Year 1, I would appreciate it if you could contact us and let us know whether you would like your child to attend school. I know that you may change your mind over the coming weeks. That's fine and understandable. It would nevertheless be useful to have some idea of interest. I would also be interested as to whether you would be happy to provide a packed lunch or would need school to provide a dinner/packed lunch.

You can contact us on:

01670 739111

07896750721

admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Thank you all for your understanding. The many messages of support I have received have really touched me. Again, I would urge you to contact me if you do have any concerns. I am in school every day and am very happy to chat if I am available.

Take care, stay safe.

Clare Scott