



# Oyster Park Primary Academy

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## Planned Re Opening of School to Key Year Groups – Reception

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Government's recent announcement to reopen schools on a phased return from June 1st, we have been making the necessary plans to ensure that school is safe for our children, families and staff. The expectation is that on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will return along with children of Key Workers and those children classed as vulnerable. The Government is then hoping that all other primary year groups will return to school before the end of the Summer Term.

Our main priority is the safety of our 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. I can reassure you, that you will not be penalised if you **do not** want to send your child into school at this time. We welcome the opportunity to work with students in readiness for September, but fully support that this is your decision based on your personal circumstances.

At this current time, from our initial risk assessments, **we cannot safely cater for ALL pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, along with key worker children on a full time basis from June 1st.** This is mainly due to the space we have available in the rooms that we have. Our classrooms will only safely cope with between 8 – 15 children in them (year group dependant), whilst maintaining the Governments guidance of a recommended 2 metres of social distance between children and staff in Year 6.

School will open for **Reception** children on **Thursday's and Friday's only** commencing **the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.** The school day will **start at 8:45am** and will **finish promptly at 2:45pm.**

**Only one** parent/carer will be permitted to accompany their child onto school grounds for drop off and collection this is to support social distancing and to limit the number of people on the site. Children will not be permitted to bring anything from home other than a coat or lunch box and children are to come to school in **non-school uniform.**

### Entrance onto school grounds and drop off procedures

Entrance onto school grounds will be via the main electronic pedestrian gate and a one-way system operated around the perimeter of the building. In line with government guidance **2-metre markers** will be in place to support social distancing and signage to support directing foot flow. Parents and carers will be expected to adhere to the social distance measures put in place on our school site. For drop off, Reception parents will be asked to walk along the path from the main pedestrian gate and to continue along the path closest to the metal railings through the gate following the path around the perimeter of the building entering to drop off at the gate located at the side of the reception outdoor area (there will be signage to direct you). **Parents and children will be greeted by a member of staff.** To adhere to social distancing measures, on the first day the children in Reception will be split into groupings and allocated a classroom either in Nursery, Miss Wood's or Miss Swan's.

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Parents will be required to follow the 2-metre social distancing markers throughout the Reception Outdoor provision. Parents will be greeted by a member of staff who will inform them of the classroom their child is allocated to where parents will drop their child at the external doors to a waiting member of staff. Parents will be asked to the exit school grounds following the one-way system signage through the Reception outdoor provision gate continuing across the school playground to the pedestrian gate located at the bottom of the playground.

### **Collection procedures for Reception**

Entrance onto school grounds will be via the main electronic pedestrian gate and a one-way system operated around the perimeter of the building. In line with government guidance, **2-metre markers** will be in place to support social distancing and signage to support directing foot flow. For collection, Reception parents will be asked to collect their children from their allocated classroom. Parents and carers will be expected to adhere to the social distancing guidelines.

Any communication with parents and carers will be held at a safe social distance outside, or by phone, so school can remain sealed off to all but essential staff and pupils.

### **Pupil Groupings**

Government guidance acknowledges that unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. To reduce risk, classes will be split into smaller groups of no more than 15 children, separated from the rest of their year group, and taught by a teacher/TA who may not be their usual member of staff. The children will remain with these bubbles with the same consistent staff allocated until guidance differs. The children will be assigned into 'bubbles' on entrance to school on the first initial day. *The term 'bubble' refers to a designated fixed group of children and adults who do not mix outside their bubble.*

### **Classroom Organisation**

Within Reception, children will be assigned carpet spots sufficiently distanced to ensure risks are minimised. Reception children will be organised into bubbles. Each bubble will be allocated their own teaching space this will either be the Nursery classroom, Miss Woods or Miss Swan's classroom in Upper Foundation. There will be an adaptation to the curriculum and provision areas to avoid the sharing of resources where possible. Children will be provided with their own pack of necessary resources where applicable.

### **Hygiene Protocols**

On entrance to the learning environments, the use of hand sanitiser and handwashing by staff and children will be implemented as well as during regular intervals across the school day. We will also be promoting good respiratory hygiene adopting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach as recommended by Public Health England. Thorough cleaning routines will be in place during the day to ensure frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, table tops and resources are sanitised to minimise risk.

### **Outdoor Provision and Lunch Time Provision**

Outdoor provision activities and lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure the different groupings remain separate. School Lunches will take the form of a picnic style lunch with a hot and sandwich option. Children will eat their lunch within their allocated classroom with a designated member of lunchtime staff, which will remain consistent.

### **Breakfast Club Provision**

As you are aware since the closure of schools across the country, we at Oyster Park have remained open including during the Easter Holidays to provide childcare provision for children of key workers and those classed as vulnerable. Due to the limitations of space and social distancing restrictions our Breakfast Club provision will continue to remain solely for these groups. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

The careful and phased re-opening of school will focus on supporting the children to learn, stay safe, and to enjoy being back with their friends and with school staff. We recognise that lockdown has caused the loss of routine, structure, friendship, freedom and elements of uncertainty. We therefore aim to support the mental health and well-being of our children through our personalised social skills curriculum. Once again, we would like to thank our parents and carers for their unwavering support during such uncertain times.

Keep Safe,

Yours sincerely,

*J Chapman-Kemp*

Mrs Chapman-Kemp  
Headteacher