



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher Mrs Laura Bennett
Deputy Headteacher Mrs Sally Wall

Bearwood Primary and Nursery School
Barons Road
Bearwood
Bournemouth
BH11 9UN

Phone: 01202 590703
Fax: 01202 590703
email: school@bearwood.poole.sch.uk
Web: www.bearwood.poole.sch.uk

Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Possible reopening of schools to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils from 1st June

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your patience at a time when there is so much uncertainty and so many questions to be answered. Although the following letter is unlikely to answer every question you might have, we hope that it covers all the key points and makes clear the things we do not yet have answers to.

The Prime Minister announced on Sunday the gradual reopening of schools. The Department for Education have now released guidance to schools and parents.

From the week commencing 1st June at the earliest, schools are being asked, if possible, to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The detailed guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Initial Phase of Reopening

As per the guidance, we are now working towards a re-opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils from **Monday 1st June**. The guidance indicates the maximum class size is expected to be 15. At our school, considering the size of some of our classrooms, there are likely to be between 6 and 8 pupils per class. We will also need to be open to children of key workers (see **Priority Groups** section below) however, we do not envisage more than 15 places being required.

Clearly, we would only ever open the school to the children and our staff at the point that it was safe to do so, in accordance with the published guidance. The safety of our children and staff is paramount. Although we will now be working tirelessly over the coming days to plan the detail of this, we are confident that there is nothing in the guidance that we cannot have in place by **Monday 1st June**. We will have detailed risk assessments in place and have plenty of time to enact the guidance around social distancing, pick-ups, drop-offs and so on. There are a couple of specific areas that I can address a little more today in the sections below, but we will communicate more specific details around how we will meet all the safety guidance early next week.



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Number 10286967

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Although we will have some families (including the children themselves) that are extremely keen to get back to school, there will also be those that are worried and are very anxious about children returning, for a variety of understandable reasons. However, whilst it is clear that your child's school experience will be very different from the one they most recently remember (due to the restriction on class sizes and introduction of significant additional safety, distancing and hygiene measures), please be assured that we have their safety and emotional wellbeing at the forefront of every decision that we are making.

Attendance at School

We are very pleased that the government has chosen to mirror the stance that we had already planned to take if schools re-opened before the end of the current academic year, which is that there will be **no fines for non-attendance at school**. The guidance states that:

“No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason. Eligible children – including priority groups - are strongly encouraged to attend their education setting, unless they are self-isolating or they are clinically vulnerable (in which case they should follow medical advice).”

Priority Groups

As well as opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, the current expectation remains that schools will provide childcare for 'key worker' families and 'vulnerable children'. The criteria for those that are entitled to this provision has not changed, but we appreciate that for some families with key workers, circumstances may be changing. Please do let us know if you believe that you meet this criteria so we can plan accordingly.

Pupil Learning

From Monday 1st June, if you choose not to send your children to school in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6, we will no longer be in a position to provide online home learning activities for these year groups, as the teachers will be in school. However, please do use the sites we have previously signposted to access learning: <https://www.thenational.academy/> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>. All other year groups will continue to set online learning by the class teacher until further notice.

What will it look like when my child returns to school on the 1st June?

- The children will be offered days at school rather than whole weeks (one day a week for Nursery and Reception pupils and every other day for Year 1 and 6 pupils). On the day pupils are not timetabled to be in school, follow up activities from the previous day will be provided. **This is dependent upon pupils numbers and may be subject to change.**
- There will be 'social bubbles' which means each group of children has one adult and does not socialise with any pupils or adults. These 'social bubbles' will contain no more than 8 pupils apart from the priority group which will be no more than 15.
- Staggered drop off and pick up times and a one way pedestrian system in the car park.
- Social distancing practised at all times.
- One-way system and specific areas for 'social bubbles' throughout the day.
- Lunchtimes will be in the designated 'social bubble' area.
- Pupils will have their own working station and equipment.
- Regular handwashing and cleaning periods.



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- If the adult assigned to a 'social bubble' is not the class teacher, they will be able to watch their teacher explaining the work virtually.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The guidance is very clear on this:

“Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. **Face coverings should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children)** as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”

We will be working to ensure we have PPE available for staff as there are instances that this might be appropriate, for example, administering first aid.

Children's Health

Please do not send your child into school if they, or anyone in the home, is displaying Covid-19 symptoms as NHS guidance needs to be followed. We will monitor your child's health closely and anyone displaying symptoms will be sent home immediately.

“if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn”

Catering

We do not currently know how school dinners will be managed as schools reopen, but will be liaising with the catering service to find out more. It is highly likely that we will be able to provide prepared packed lunches in lieu of cooked dinners as this may enhance our ability to maintain as much social distancing and reduce interaction as much as possible.

Other Year Groups

At the moment, the only statement in the guidance regarding the children in other year groups is as follows:

“Our ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. We will only welcome back additional year groups if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children within schools. The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.”

There is no further clarity on what this means however, we believe that this will not be all children at one time.



In order for the phased reopening of school to take place on the 1st June, the Government says there are five tests which need to be passed to ensure that the UK can move into the next stage. As shared by the Government, we are not at this stage as yet. The situation may change between now and Monday 1st June, but I am sure we will all want to work together to be ready for the potential rephrased opening.

Parental Response required for Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6 pupils

So that we are able to make plans based on accurate numbers, if your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, please can you email Bearwood School school@bearwood.poole.sch.uk to inform us if you intend to send your child to school or keep your child at home. **This is an important part of planning the safe opening of the school so please respond as quickly as you can.**

You will receive further communication early next week, once we have collated numbers and finalised details. We will then start to send out resources to prepare the pupils for coming back including a virtual tour of the school and a social story of the changes.

As always, thank you for your continued support and patience during these challenging and ever-changing times.

With kind regards

Laura Bennett
Headteacher



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