



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since sending my letter out to you yesterday with a guide to how the phased opening of school would happen, the government have released new guidance. The government information for schools currently changes daily and so we apologise that sometimes we are communicating differing messages. Some of the information in my letter dated 14/05/2020 has now changed and so I am writing to you to again to explain how we are preparing to open our school in the forthcoming weeks.

As previously mentioned, the government have suggested that key worker children and children in Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils should be welcomed back, however they have now given further guidance on how this should be implemented, with children of key workers given priority. This sits alongside the need for schools to ensure social distancing rules are followed where possible, that strict cleaning processes are put in place and that children and staff mix as little as possible. You will understand that safety for all is our key concern.

We, of course, would love to welcome all of our children back to school, however, given the current situation, we know that this will not be possible, whilst following the government guidelines.

We are, therefore, carrying out thorough risk assessments and planning how we can accommodate as many children as possible, whilst maintaining a safe environment for children and staff.

We are looking forward to welcoming other year groups back in a safe way, when it is deemed safe to do so. Please be aware this may not be the 1st June. We are also risk assessing our school setting, looking at the number of rooms, staff and cleaning availability. This means we will not be able to open to all children in the suggested year groups in the first instance. We will open in phases and will notify you as soon as we are able as to which pupils will return and when. This will follow government guidance prioritising as followed:

1. Children of critical workers and vulnerable children
2. Nursery children
3. Reception children
4. Year 1 children
5. Year 6 children



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Number 10286967

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All places offered will be subject to staff availability, space available and being able to ensure a safe environment for your children and our staff. Please note, therefore, that places could change depending on staff availability and changes in government guidelines.

As stated in my letter yesterday, the children will remain in their 'social bubbles'. These bubbles will contain no more than 15 children and we are aiming for approximately 10 children in each (changed from 8). The children will now be expected to attend school every day rather than the reduced days mentioned in the letter yesterday. The start and finish times will still be staggered.

In order to prepare for reopening, we will be closed during May half term (Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020) to prepare for the return of an increased number of children, whilst also ensuring we have work available for the children not returning. Please note that 1st June is an inset day, however the school will be open to the children of keyworkers. We will therefore start our phased reopening to other children, if spaces are available from the 2nd June at the earliest.

Please can I draw your attention to the latest guidance for parents/carers at:

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

To enable us to plan appropriately, we are asking you to inform us by Tuesday 19 May, if you are a key worker who would like to be considered for a place for your child to attend school from 1st June. **Please email school@bearwood.poole.sch.uk and indicate how you are a key worker in your email.** We are assessing how many spaces we will be able to offer to children of key workers, whilst also following the government guidance on maintaining a safe environment. Where we have more requests than we are able accommodate, we will need to prioritise places. This means not all key worker children may be offered a full time place. We will offer critical workers first, for example, health workers, carers, education and those in the food industry. **If you have previously emailed us to request a place for your child, please only email again if you are a keyworker or if you have changed your mind.**

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. Please be assured that our highest priority is the health and safety of our pupils and staff.

We will contact you with further information as soon as we are able.

Your sincerely,

Laura Bennett



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