

Thursday 21st May 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the government's recent announcement to reopen schools on a phased return, we have been studying all the guidance put out with the aim of understanding exactly what is proposed. We have spent this week making the necessary plans to ensure that our school is safe for our children, families and staff.

Like the government, we would like to see as many children back in school before the summer as we can. As a school and local governing body, we are committed to the education of your children but at this difficult time we need to balance the needs of staff, pupils and parents.

We have been guided by discussions with the Governing Body, Manchester City Council, other Manchester Headteachers and our respective unions in order to formulate our plan. Whilst we, as much as you, would like nothing more than to be back in school doing the job of teaching your children, in the current situation that is not possible and we need to start the return to school process in a staged and carefully managed way.

We are planning to start this phased return on Tuesday 2nd June beginning with our oldest children in Year 6 as well as continuing with children of key workers and those children classed as vulnerable. This will be followed by Year 1 and then reception. The government have suggested that all year groups may return before the summer but this will need to be kept under review and will be dependent on a number of considerations.

We want to thank all of you who have engaged with the questionnaire about the changes and your views are helping us to plan different eventualities. If you have not yet had a chance to share your views, please do so via

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5B8MxGR527-dRKilLGiUoEwWhkDF-Xb5-qXAptrzdWy-NWg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

We would like to emphasise that the **1st June is the earliest that this might happen**, and it depends on further falls in the spread and impact of the virus, as well as discussions with national unions and associations.

Our intention is to bring the children back through a clearly laid out staggered programme, including systems and procedures which meet the government's requirements to introduce new ways of working to minimise risk. We intend to reopen the school 4 days per week – from Monday to Thursday - for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We will be closed on a Friday for deep cleaning and to allow teachers to prepare for the following week (Model A) If numbers increase and we have to open more 'bubbles' we will move to a shared week model of Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday (Model B)

Modal A (3 or 4 classes)	Model B (4+ classes)	Key worker groups
Monday – Thursday	Monday/Tuesday (classes 1/2/3) Thursday/Friday (classes 4/5/6)	Monday – Friday
Friday – deep clean/planning	Wednesday - deep clean/planning	

We will continue to offer a keyworker provision from Monday to Friday and will continue to provide home learning resources for all year groups so that those unable to attend can continue working at home.

Siblings of pupils in year groups other than those identified by the government will not be able to attend.

Our keyworker groups will begin again on Monday 1st June

To ensure a safe return to school we will stagger the intake as follows:

Week Beginning 1 st June	Year 6
Week beginning 8 th June	Year 1
Week Beginning 15 th June	Reception

We will be contacting each year group individually to inform them about the exact arrangements for their year group return.

In line with DfE recommendations, the following measures will be put in place:

- Children will work in a 'bubble' with a maximum of 15 children and 2 members of staff, each based in separate classrooms.
- Your child may not be taught by their class teacher, but all 'bubbles' will be taught by a member of our staff team so will be familiar to your child.
- Children and staff from different 'bubbles' will not be able to mix together – therefore there will be staggered drop-off and collection times as well as staggered break and lunch times.
- We will not be able to provide breakfast or afterschool care at this time as we cannot let pupils from different 'bubbles' mix together.
- Children in extremely vulnerable groups or who live with someone in extremely vulnerable group will not be expected to attend.
- The Local Authority will not be penalising non-attendance at this time.
- If any pupil or member of their household falls ill with symptoms of Covid-19 they should not attend and should self-isolate as per government guidelines.
- If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 within a 'bubble' all staff and pupils in that 'bubble' will need to isolate for 14 days.
- We would expect attendance at school on all the days we are open unless your child is unwell.
- We will not be operating a full curriculum but will be progressing towards a more structured school day and will be supporting the children with their well-being during this time.
- Children will have their own resources to use – there will be minimal sharing of equipment and where equipment/apparatus is shared it will be cleaned before any other child or group use it.
- We would advise that you do not use public transport to get to school but walk or cycle wherever possible.
- We will have increased access to handwashing and hygiene routines as well as regular cleaning of the school and all equipment.

We know that it is important to reduce contact between children and staff as much as possible. Through the measures that will be put in place, we will endeavour to reduce contact between individuals as much as possible. However, we understand that this is increasingly difficult with our younger children and we cannot guarantee stringent social distancing i.e. children kept 2m apart, at all times.

Should the R rate change and the government decide that it is no longer safe to admit additional pupils in school, then we will follow that advice. It is important that at home you maintain social distancing to ensure that doesn't happen. We would also expect that children coming into school are following social distancing rules at home to make sure we minimise the virus being spread

We understand that there are increased levels of anxiety at this time. We are working hard to support families overcome such anxieties and hope the information above comes some way to alleviating your concerns.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of our staff at this time. They have worked tirelessly to not only provide care for our keyworker children, but also to support the continued education of your children at home through the home learning provision and have facilitated communication in order to provide you with the support you need at this time.

If you need to speak to someone about whether your child should /shouldn't attend school, or you have any questions, please contact the school on 0161 881 1621 or via head@chorltonpark.manchester.sch.uk.

We will not be allowing any parents onto the school site and the office will be not be accessible.

Thank you again for your patience and support. It has been a difficult ten days because we never underestimate our responsibilities to our children and families and we have been working hard to make sure we have a workable plan with safety as a priority.

Please continue to stay safe.

Kind regards,

Ms Habershon and Mrs Blackburn