



Sharow Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Palmer

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Wider Opening of School

Since the Government's announcement regarding the phased reopening of primary schools, we have been working extremely hard to plan to open safely for more children: a robust plan of action is in place, risk assessments have been completed and changes have been, and continue, to be made.

We plan to reopen to extend provision beyond that of critical worker's and vulnerable children to also include nursery on Monday 1st June.

Please note however, that as many factors continue to develop/change, the guidance and advice that we receive from the DfE and Local Authority does too. Daily, we are reviewing our plans as necessary and if at any point, there is any doubt that we cannot open safely on the date above, plans would need to be altered. Likewise, the Government have stated that they will make a final decision as to whether schools should reopen on Thursday 28th May.

We very much appreciate that the decision to send your child back to school is an incredibly difficult one and therefore we are providing you with an outline of our arrangements below.

What age groups does this cover?

From 1st June: Nursery and the ongoing provision for critical workers' and vulnerable children.

When will the school open to all year groups?

The Government's ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, 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.





What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?

We are asking that only nursery, key workers' and vulnerable children return to school from 1st June.

I am a critical worker or have a vulnerable child – will school still provide a place for my child even though they are not in Nursery?

Yes.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

The Government would like to encourage children invited by the school to attend, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions). However please keep your child at home if you feel it is safer to do so. Parents will not be penalised if their child does not attend school.

If my child is eligible for free school meals, will they still receive a meal or food voucher while the school is only open for certain groups?

Yes, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak we will continue to provide support to these children.

Will school meals be available for children who are in school?

Yes, including Universal Free School Meals for children in KS1. Hot food will not be provided for school meals, but instead children can choose from Grab Bag sandwich meal options of cheese, ham or tuna.

Can children still bring packed lunches from home?

Yes. Parents are requested to ensure that their child can open all packaging in their lunch as staff are unable to help children due to safety measures. Some food may need repackaging before adding it to their lunchboxes.

What happens if a child feels unwell at school?

Parents will be contacted immediately to collect their child. Until they arrive, children will be supervised away from others in school.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in our school?

Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

“When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.





Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary."

Will children and staff be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks?

The Government states that:

"Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.

Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings."

"The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- 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."

What will school look like?

School will look and feel different from how it usually is. However, staff will work together to make it feel just as welcoming and secure as it always did.





- The children and staff in school will function in 'bubbles' or groups. Each bubble will have the same members of staff working with them as consistently as possible.
- Good hygiene and hand-washing will be promoted throughout the day.
- Classrooms have been arranged with individual tables for children to be spaced apart, except in Early Years.
- Each child will have a tray placed under their table for them to put their belongings in.
- Each child will be provided with their own resources to be kept in their tray.
- Toilets will become unisex and cubicles and sinks will be allocated to different bubbles.
- More signs will be displayed around the school to remind us all how to behave.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classroom in the same seating as the rest of the day.
- Each bubble will have their own breaktimes and equipment bags to reduce any contact time with people outside of their bubble. (Nursery children will not have a breaktime and will remain in their own provision throughout the whole day.)
- We will teach the children new ideas for playtime games to help them remain distanced.
- Children will not wear uniforms, but warm clothes suitable for lots of outside learning and physical activity.
- The children will see us doing more cleaning throughout the day of high contact points such as door handles, light switches, tables and chairs.
- Doors will be kept open to minimise the need for contact.
- Windows will be opened to increase ventilation.

How are the bubbles arranged?

Key workers' and vulnerable children have been grouped in age related groupings.

Red (nursery) – Miss Coventry and Mrs Colley

Green (Rec, Y1) – Miss Tye and Mrs Dyason

Blue (Y2,3) – Mr Brook and Mrs Fletcher in week 1, Mrs Broadbent weeks 2-4 and Mrs Scholes weeks 5-7

Yellow (Y4,5,6)– Mrs Dixon (Mon-Wed), Mrs Snodgrass (Thur-Fri) and Miss Palliser

Curriculum: If I send my child to school, what will they be doing?

Teaching in school will take on a different approach as we observe social distancing. Teachers will work creatively and imaginatively to engage children in their learning. Each teacher is best placed to make decisions about how to support and educate their pupils during this period once children have returned to school and their needs are assessed. This will always include a focus on wellbeing.

We will use our best endeavours to support pupils attending as well as those remaining at home by mirroring learning for both groups.

Curriculum: If my child is not in school will home learning continue?

Yes. Children at home will be doing the same as the children in school and as always you can contact the class teacher through the class email. As you can appreciate, we have teacher's





returning to school to manage additional children. Teachers will therefore be managing both actual and virtual classrooms: please be understanding.

Social distancing...in a Primary School?

The Government 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. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing.”

The Government advises that:

“It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.”

“While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk.”

Further advice is to “ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days.” and to “ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days.” and “ensure that wherever possible children and young people use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day...”

What arrangements are in place for collection and drop-off?

Different bubbles will enter and leave from designated points situated across school. To enable teachers to have their entitled planning time without inviting additional adults in school, we are closing after lunch on Fridays.

Bubble - Where - How - Drop off - Pick up - Friday pick up?

Red Class 1 door. Your child will be invited into the classroom and then directed to you at the end of the day. Drop off 9.00-9.10 am, pick up 3.20-3.30pm, Friday pick up 1.00-1.10pm

Green Staff car park. Please bring your child to the gate leading into the outside area where they will be collected by a member of staff. Drop off 9.00-9.10am, pick up 3.20-3.30pm, Friday pick up 1.00-1.10pm





Blue External hall door (old large one on the left as you enter the school site) Children will be invited in by a member of staff. Children will be handed over to you by a member of staff at the end of the day. Drop off 8.40-8.50am, pick up 3.00-3.10pm, Friday pick up 12.40-12.50pm

Yellow Class 5 door onto the playground Please enter the school site through the staff carpark. Children will be invited in by a member of staff. Children will be handed over to you by a member of staff at the end of the day. Drop off 8.40-8.50am, pick up 3.00-3.10pm, Friday pick up 12.40-12.50pm

If you are delayed and miss the allotted time, please telephone the school office to make alternative arrangements.

Please do not enter the school site if you are displaying any coronavirus symptoms.

Parents are responsible for their own social distancing and we request that only one adult accompanies children to school. If possible, please do not bring children's siblings when collecting from school, but where this is necessary, they must also observe social distancing rules. If you have children in more than one bubble, please contact the school to agree the best approach for drop-off and pick-up.

What should children bring to school?

To minimise risk, children should only bring the following:

- a full water bottle (to be taken home each day, cleaned and filled)
- A packed lunch (ensuring all packaging can be opened by your child)
- Fruit or vegetable for a snack at break
- Waterproof coat
- Sun hat/cap

We also suggest that, in the hope of sunny weather, long-lasting/all day sun-cream is applied before they come to school.

Can parents come on site?

Please do not visit the school site other than to collect or drop off children.

Communication with school

Please contact the school office via email rather than telephone due to the limited number of staff available to take calls on site.

How can I support my child with transition back into school?

Continue to talk openly with your child about how they are feeling; remember we are here to support you, so please contact your child's teacher or myself if you need any help or have any questions.





Help reinforce messages about good hygiene, handwashing and social distancing. Share parts of this information with your child so that they have some understanding of what school will be like when they return.

I hope that all the information above is useful in providing clarity with regard to our plans for school following 1st June. I am sure you can appreciate this has been, and continues to be, very complex and subject to change. Our top priorities remain safety, well-being and happiness of our children and staff. It is important that we work in partnership together and we welcome any questions or concerns.

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for everyone. Thank you to all parents for your support, to all children for your resilience and to all staff for your continued commitment to our school.

Kind regards and best wishes

Mrs Jacqui Palmer
Executive Headteacher

