



19th May 2020

RE: Arrangements for 1st June 're-opening' to Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six

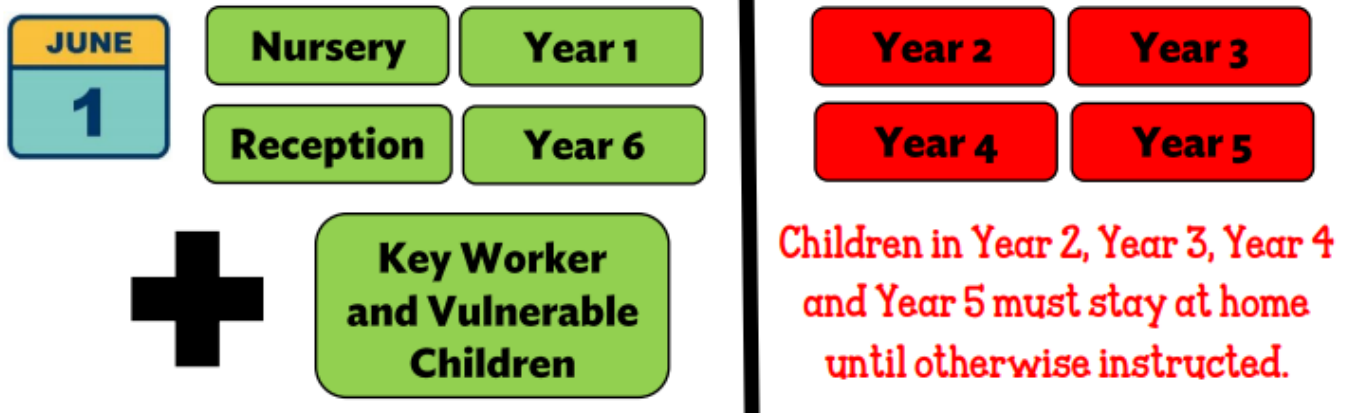
Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well. Following the letter from the MAT, I am writing to update you on Woodthorne's plans for the 're-opening' of school to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six, in accordance with the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday 10th May.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the incredible support that you have given since we were asked to close our school to all but a priority group of children on 23rd March. Whilst we continue to live in unprecedented times, I feel that there has been a true sense of community which has helped us to support each other.

The advice below is designed to explain the changes made to normal school life from June 1st. We hope to reassure parents and carers of the steps which are being taken to limit the spread of the virus. In the coming weeks and months, this advice may be subject to change, following new guidance from the Government.

- [Is my child eligible to return to school?](#)





From June 1st we will begin to welcome back children who are currently in Year 6, Reception and Year 1 **over a phased period** for only three days per week (Mon, Tues, Wed). We will also remain open to care for key worker children and vulnerable children (Mon-Fri), but **only** if and when they are not able to stay at home.

We aim to see Year 6 and Year 1 returning on the 1st June. Then we will welcome Reception on the 8th June followed by Nursery, as soon as it is feasible. All of these arrangements will only go ahead if we are satisfied that our risk assessments can be safely followed.

- [What about sisters, brothers and other children?](#)



Only children in the eligible green coloured year groups above will be allowed back into school. Sisters and brothers of eligible pupils, who are currently in Years 2-5, must stay at home until notified. If your child is not allowed to return to school, they are expected to continue to learn from home with online support.



- [What changes can be expected?](#)



The time and place you drop off and pick up your child (details to be confirmed). Breakfast and after school clubs will not be available to any pupils.



The curriculum will be altered to minimise risk.



Your child may have a different classroom and teacher.



Children will not be expected to attend school in school uniform at this time. Home clothes need to be worn and washed/changed daily. Children will not need to bring in a PE kit, however suitable clothing for outdoor activities should be worn.



Break and lunch times will be staggered and children in Reception and Year 1 will have a packed lunch provided by the school kitchen as part of the Universal Meals. Please do not send a packed lunch with your child - this is to minimise lunchboxes and other items being brought in from home.

Children in Year 6 who are entitled to Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

The rest of Year 6 can bring their own packed lunch in a plastic or paper bag which will be thrown away or can order a packed lunch from the school kitchen. As always, their lunch will be ordered on the day. **Please note that no 'hot' dinners will be served** during this time.



Limited access to the site will be in place for drop-off and pick-up times. This will be different for each year group. Details will follow shortly.

- [How are you making sure school is safe for my child?](#)



There will be less children in each classroom. There will be a **maximum** of 15 pupils per class.



Everyone will wash their hands several times a day. This includes on entering the school, exiting the building and before and after eating. Children should not bring hand gels with them to school.



School, including the children's resources, will be cleaned more frequently and sharing equipment will be minimised as much as possible. Resources in work spaces will be kept to a minimum in order to make sure they can be wiped clean. Wherever possible, resources which are not easily washable or wipeable will be removed from these spaces.



The following measures will also be in place:

- Soap and warm water in every toilet area (and if possible in classrooms)
- Lidded bins will be present in all classrooms and in other key locations around our school sites.
- There will be a good supply of disposable tissues to implement the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach in each classroom.
- We will be providing all equipment needed, children will only be asked to bring a water bottle. Please do not bring book bags/bags until further notice.



Pupils will remain in a 'bubble group'. They will stay with their group at all times during the day (including breaks and lunchtime) to minimise contact between children and adults. **Groups will not be mixing with other groups.**

Where it is possible to keep children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, we will do so. Wherever possible, our staff will also remain at a safe distance.

Vulnerable and Key worker pupils will be in their own "bubble group" if they require the provision over the week. These groups will be separate from children attending school from Monday to Wednesday and may consist of pupils from different year groups.



The classroom layout will be altered to maximise the space between pupils. We will keep classrooms well ventilated and use outdoor space for exercise and breaks. Drawers and some areas of the classroom may not be accessible to the children.



If a child or a family member becomes sick, they will not be able to attend school.



The number of people entering the school site will be minimised to staff and children only. Parents should phone or email as they will not be allowed to enter the office area.



The Government guidance states that it is not necessary for staff to wear masks, gloves and aprons unless they are carrying out activities that would usually require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) or if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs supervision until they can return home. Children are not permitted to wear PPE including masks and gloves.

- [What happens if there is a case of coronavirus in school?](#)



If a member of staff or a pupil has symptoms of coronavirus, the person with symptoms must self-isolate for 7 days. They should then seek a coronavirus test. These will be available via 111.



The people who the person lives with, must then self-isolate for 14 days.



If the result of the test comes back positive, the whole bubble group, who the child has been working with, must self-isolate for 14 days. This will include the member of staff leading that bubble group.



If, after reading this information, you decide not to send your child into school, the Government have made it clear that you will not receive a fine. The children at home will continue to be set home learning tasks.

- [What should I do if I am concerned about the re-opening of school?](#)



If you have any questions about this information, please call or email the school office and a member of the senior leadership team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



It is important to note that face to face meetings will not be available in the short term, in order to reduce the number of people who access the school and to minimise the risk of the spread of coronavirus

Please remember the guidelines we are working towards are constantly changing. So information provided here may be changed or altered over the next few weeks. Furthermore, there is a Government announcement on the 28th May to confirm whether children will be back at school on 1st June. So although we are working under the assumption that there will be a partial reopening, we are yet to have this confirmed.

We have not yet received any further guidance about Free School Meals and whether the voucher system will continue after half term. Once we receive further guidance, we will of course update all parents.

Many thanks for your continued support at this challenging time. We will be in touch with further information for individual year groups regarding their particular arrangements for classes, teachers, drop-offs and pick-ups.

Yours faithfully

T Hinkley
Headteacher