



Tackley C of E Primary School

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Tackley

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14th May 2020

Dear Parents

Re-opening of schools from 1st June for Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6

I hope you are all well and continuing to stay safe.

I am writing after the Government announcement on Sunday and following further guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). Undoubtedly you will be aware that the Government announcement stated the ambition that children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should return to school on June 1st at the very earliest. I am aware that parents will want to know what we plan to do and I wanted to update you on this.

However, please be aware our planning is likely to change too in the light of ongoing guidance from Public Health England and the DfE and our own ongoing review of how we can practically implement the guidance safely at Tackley. Nevertheless, the information below outlines our planning at this stage, and I will continue to keep you updated on any further developments.

For those that would like to read the guidance in full it can be found 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>

Schools re-opening for more children, whether your child is in the groups prioritised to return on 1st June or not, is raising many questions. Please be assured that we share a desire to get as many children back into school as possible, but our overriding consideration is always the safety of the children, staff and school community.

I hope to be able to provide you with enough information to enable you, if your child is in the year groups returning on 1st June, to make an informed choice about whether you want to send your child back to school. This decision is yours and will be dependent on your individual circumstances. The guidance makes clear that parents who choose not to send their children back to school will not be issued with any penalties.

Who could be in school?

If plans to re-open schools do go ahead. All children in Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 6 are able to return to school. School has continued to be open for priority groups of children including children of critical workers. If your children are not in the year groups expected back on June 1st, and you are a critical worker and would like your child to return to school please contact the school office. More information on who is a keyworker can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If your child or any member of the family present with any symptoms related to COVID-19 it is essential that they do not attend school. This is to keep other children within the school community and our staff safe.

Social distancing in schools

You will all know and realise the challenges of maintaining social distancing of 2m with children of any age. This is even more difficult with our very youngest children that are expected back in school.

We will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of safety for all of our children. However, we can not make any guarantee that children will adhere to the 2m social distancing rule when they return to school.



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Children are naturally drawn to each other. With our oldest children we will make adaptations to the physical layout of the classroom but this is not achievable in a more free flow learning environment like in Nursery and Reception.

Additional safety measures

In line with the guidance from the DfE we will be:

- cleaning more frequently around the school during the school day
- asking all children to sanitise their hands as they enter the school building
- encouraging children to frequently wash their hands
- using the outdoor space as much as possible

- requesting that only one parent brings their child/ren to school to reduce the number of people on the school site
- asking parents to drop off outside the classroom door – there will be no waiting in the playground for the bell. Parents will not be allowed into the school building unless for a pre-arranged appointment.
- having staggered start and finish times for different groups of children

The school will be organised in the following way:

- children will be in set class groups with no more than 15 in a group
- each class group will have the same adults working with them each day
- the class groups will not mix with each other, including having different break and lunchtimes outside

In addition, the school will be closed from 12:00 each Wednesday to ALL pupils. This is to allow for staff meeting time and statutory PPA time without other staff having to cover classes and mix between class groups.

Arrangements for those not in school

For those year groups not in school from the 1st June we will continue to provide work on Google Classroom and offer weekly Google Meets.

The Government guidance states that *“it is our ambition 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.”*

Confirming with school intention to return to school

We are asking all parents with children in eligible year groups (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) to reply by email to the school office office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk to let us know if you are planning to send your child/ren back to school on 1st June. Please could you let us know this information no later than 12:00 on Tuesday 19th May.

Thank you again for all that you are doing to support your child with home learning. I know that many of you are juggling home learning alongside working from home, and no doubt having varying successes with this! Try not to put too much pressure on yourselves, do what you can.

Our parent community has been open, positive and very supportive during school closure. We have received such thoughtful and positive feedback, and at such a difficult time for us all it has only continued to strengthen staff. I'm not sure there are enough thank yous I can offer to you all. I am hopeful that this positivity and understanding will continue on this next stage of school gradually re-opening.

Mrs L Murrey
Headteacher