



Fallings Park Primary School
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22nd May 2020

Wider Opening of Our School.

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that you are all as well as can be expected during these challenging and changeable times. I've met some of you during our parcel collections and deliveries along the way and your smiles and support have been great.

Before I continue, let me give you all a heartfelt thanks for your support and encouragement in recent weeks. My staff have been genuinely moved by your kindness and appreciation.

Apologies for what is about to be a very long letter but we have got a great deal of information to communicate to you and I want to do it as clearly as possible.

The government have stated that, from Monday 1st June schools can increase pupil numbers. We will begin opening our school to increased numbers of pupils on Tuesday 2nd June.

The school will be closed to all pupils on 1st June in order to train staff, finalise safety procedures and complete preparation of classrooms and resources. Safety is our first concern.

I can assure you that I and my leaders have been planning, organising and risk assessing with the safety and wellbeing of everyone at the very top of our list. We want to increase our opening safely and steadily.

To begin, we will undertake a phased return for those pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

The size and number of classrooms along with social distancing will not allow us to have all children in these Year Groups in school for all of the week. So plans are in place to ensure that we can begin safely.

We will be splitting Year Groups in half. Half of the children from each Year Group will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other half of the Year Group will attend on Thursdays and Fridays. Parents with eligible children will receive a text stating what days they have been allocated.

Wednesday will be a deeper cleaning day. Pupils who we have identified as children of critical workers will be eligible to attend all days of the week.

Pupils in Tiny Trees, Nursery and Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 are not currently eligible to attend. This includes those pupils in these year groups who have siblings who are eligible to attend. We are waiting on government announcements and we will contact you when this changes.

Start Dates for Eligible Children

Pupils Identified as Children of Critical Workers

Tuesday 2nd June - Children of critical workers return to school and continue to do so for all days of the week.

Reception Pupils

Thursday 4th June - First half of Reception Year Group return to school and continue to do so every Thursday and Friday.

Monday 8th June - Second half of Reception Year Group return to school and continue to do so every Monday and Tuesday.

Year 1

Monday 15th June - First half of Year 1 return to school and continue to do so every Monday and Tuesday.

Thursday 18th June - Second half of Year 1 children return to school and continue to do so every Thursday and Friday.

Year 6

Monday 8th June - First half of Year 6 return to school on Monday and Tuesday and continue to do so for 2 weeks.

Thursday 11th June - Second half of Year 6 return to school on Thursday and Friday and continue to do so for 2 weeks.

Week beginning 22nd June - Year 6 pupils will be home learning.

Week beginning 29th June - The Local Authority are planning for Year 6 pupils to attend their future secondary school. More details to follow.

Home Learning

All pupils, whether they attend or not, will have access to our Home Learning on the school website.

We have purchased study guides for all pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 which can be collected at the Old Fallings Lane entrance between 10:00am and 2:00pm on Wednesday 3rd June.

Pupil Groupings

Children will be in groups (called Bubbles) of no more than 9.

Each Bubble will be allocated a classroom and will not use other classrooms. Your child will only mix with the children in their allocated Bubble.

Each Bubble will be allocated two members of staff who will work with that Group Bubble alone. All children will work with staff under the direction of a teacher.

Social Distancing and Safety for Pupils and Staff

Please note that, due to the high numbers of children in school and accommodation limits, we will endeavour to undertake the following actions as best as possible.

We have used risk assessment and capacity calculators to identify group sizes. We will allow a maximum of 9 children and where possible, 1 member of staff in each classroom.

In classrooms, children will be as far apart as possible and, in an age appropriate way, regularly reminded of the importance of social distancing.

Reception Pupils

Activities will be available on set tables/areas. Children can move between the activities in their Bubble room only.

All activities will be designed to minimise contact between pupils and their staff. For example, games that involve passing objects will not be undertaken.

Year 1 Pupils

Desks will be assigned to individual pupils in Year 1. Each desk will have its own resources which only your child will use. Children will leave their table either according to a routine established by staff or on instruction of staff.

Year 6 Pupils

Desks will be assigned to individual pupils in Year 6. Each desk will have its own resources which only your child will use. Children will leave their table either according to a routine established by staff or on instruction of staff. Year 6 children will be expected to keep a minimum of 2 metres apart.

Staff

Staff will keep a minimum of 2 metres apart from each other at all times. Staff will have limitations on movement and mixing in school. Staff allocated to a Bubble will stay within the Year Group. For example, a staff member allocated to a Reception Bubble will only mix with children in that group, and will only mix with staff in Reception.

In order to support social distancing, children will spend a larger proportion of their time outside.

Social Distancing and Safety for Parent/Carers

Please ensure that only one parent/carer brings your child to school. Year 6 pupils should make their own way to school if safe to do so.

In order to help social distancing, you will be able to arrive with your child any time between 8:30am and 9:30am.

Collection time will be from 3:00pm - 3:30pm. I'm guessing that could take a while as we will not be 'just letting the children out', it will be a steady and safe process.

Please note that parental access to site will be restricted and you will be expected to keep 2 metres apart at all times in accordance with government instructions.

A queuing system in the same manner that shops use will be in place using markers.

We have changed access to site and buildings to maximise safety and reduce pinch points where too many people are required to gather.

Reception

Site Entrance is at Primrose Lane. Parents queue outside Nursery with supervised pupil entry/collection to their Bubble room.

Year 1

Site Entrance is at Leason Lane. Parents queue outside Year 2 with pupil supervised entry/collection to their Bubble room.

Year 6

Site Entrance is at Old Fallings Lane. Parents queue up to car park barrier with supervised pupil entry to their Year 6 entrance.

Parent Enquiries and all school clubs will remain closed for the time being. School can be contacted by phone or email.

Social Distancing for Visitors, Contractors and Outside Agencies

These people will be allowed access to school on a very limited basis. They will all follow 2 metre distancing rules and will not see your child unless we seek parent/carer permission.

The school currently has some minor refurbishment work in a room right at the edge of the Keys Stage 2 site. This area has been sealed off completely and there is absolutely no access between the refurbished area and school. Risk assessments have been carried out.

Hygiene for All

Cleaning will become a greater part of what we do and how we do it.

Cleaners will clean classrooms before and after school. Resources that cannot be cleaned easily have been removed from classroom. A trained cleaner will be on site all through the day to continually clean down higher risk areas such door handles, toilets, entrances and exits.

Staff assigned to Group Bubbles will also wipe down surfaces as they go about their teaching.

Each Wednesday, the whole school will be given a deep clean by cleaners and staff.

Regular routines for handwashing using soap and warm water will continue. Children will be taught and reminded how to wash their hands well.

Children and staff will not be required to wear PPE although staff are required to wear PPE if a child shows symptoms of Covid 19 whilst at school.

School Meals

We will be providing school meals for all children. Reception, Year 1 and eligible Year 6 pupils will receive a free school meal. Your child may bring sandwiches as before. Pupils who are eligible for free school meals and attend school may no longer qualify for the voucher scheme. We are awaiting Government instructions on this.

Some Questions and Answers

Apologies for the length of, and the seeming 'rules' in this letter. It has been written to reassure you that we are putting the safety of our pupils, you and staff as the highest priority. Those of you who know me well will also know that I like things organised, and organised they will be.

I'm sure you still have questions and because of this I am personally ensuring that our phones are staffed on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday over half term. Give us a call between 10:00am and 12:00pm and we will do our best to answer any questions you have. Please be patient if phone lines are busy.

In the meantime, I have put together some Q and A that I feel you might have already.

Do I have to send my child to school?

Whilst we have been asked to encourage you to send your child to school, you know your child and your family best. It is your decision. Schools will not follow the usual procedures for non-attendance. You will not be fined. I certainly won't think less of any parents who feel that they do not want to send their child to school. It is your decision.

What will the classrooms actually look like?

Please find on the next page photographs of our Reception Room, Year 1 Room and Early Years dining area.



Reception



Dining

I don't want to send my child just yet, can I change my mind?

Of course you can. Despite all the changes, we are here for you and your child. It's what we do and it's what we want to do. Whenever you are ready, bring your child to school.

My child is not eligible to come to school yet. When will that happen?

The short answer to that is when we hear more from the government. We have made a school that we believe currently meets the risks. We await government instructions as to when more children are eligible to return.

Can I/My Child wear gloves and masks?

Government advice is that children and staff do not need to routinely wear masks and gloves. I do not recommend it. We want children to be safe, relaxed and happy and I do not believe that routine use of face masks will help that happen.

I'm worried that all the changes will frighten my child. Everything seems so different.

We are aware that this may happen. My staff and I have the wellbeing of your child at the heart of all these changes. Children need our support and understanding more than ever right now. We will contact you immediately if your child becomes upset, agitated or overly unhappy.

Does my child need to wear uniform?

No. Children should wear sensible clothing for indoor and outdoor activity. They do not need to bring PE kit.

What do I need to send to school?

To maximise safety, we ask that your child does not bring any personal items into school other than a filled and labelled water bottle. If a Year 6 child needs to bring a mobile phone, they will leave it in a safe bag as before.

What happens if a pupil or member of staff develops symptoms of Corona Virus?

Each Year Group has been allocated a room where children can be isolated with a member of staff until you come to collect them. This will be done quietly, sensitively and with our caring approach.

We are waiting for all our risk assessments to be reviewed and checked by the Local Authority. As soon as this has been completed we will publish them on our website.

Of course we are all concerned right now, but I hope you all truly believe that the way we organise our school, the way we approach the health and safety, the safeguarding, the wellbeing and the learning of your children is done with maximum commitment, effort and effectiveness.

I've been doing this job for a fair while and I can say that I never been prouder to be the headteacher of Fallings Park than I am now.

See you all when you are ready. If things change, we will be in touch.

Jon Hopkins

Headteacher