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Wednesday, 20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Possible phased return to school for some pupils**

I am writing to outline the process by which we are going to organise our phased return to school. I apologise that this letter is detailed, but making sure that we do this in a safe and controlled way is complicated.

We have carefully considered these measures, which we have discussed with our local cluster primary and secondary schools. There is a strong sense of alignment across our cluster and beyond.

The Prime Minister has outlined some basic principles around which we have based our planning:

- Schools should prepare to begin to open for more children from (not on) 1st June – The Government has stated that more children will be able to attend school only when the five key tests have been met. That position has not changed.
- The Government expects children in early years' settings, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller group sizes.
- The Government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review.

We want to respond in a way which ensures the following principles are at the heart of our decisions:

- Keeping pupils safe and support well-being
- Keeping staff safe and support well-being
- Keeping the community safe and play our part in reducing transmission
- Learning from other schools and professions
- Clear, transparent communication with all members of the community

We are planning to open the school in a controlled and measured way as follows:

- On Monday 1 June, school will be open for key worker and vulnerable children only. A day of on-site preparation and staff training will happen on that day. We will continue to provide home learning for the children.
- Key worker and vulnerable children will continue to attend school full-time.
- The phased expansion will start on Tuesday 2 June. On this day, Year 6 Group A children will attend school (we'll let you know which group your child is in).
- From Thursday 4 June: Year 6, Year 1 and Reception (Group B children only)
- From Monday 8 June: Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children (on a part time basis, with Group A attending on Monday and Tuesday, and Group B children on Thursday and Friday).

The following table shows how our first two weeks in June are scheduled:

<b>Week beginning 1 June</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 6	✘	Group A only	✘	Group B only	Group B only
Reception and Year 1	✘	✘	✘	Group B only	Group B only

<b>Week beginning 8 June</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 6	Group A only	Group A only	✘	Group B only	Group B only
Reception and Year 1	Group A only	Group A only	✘	Group B only	Group B only

We will let you know whether your child is in Group A or Group B in due course. Arrangements for critical worker and vulnerable children will continue in their present format for all year groups.

We would expect the schedule to continue in a similar pattern to the week beginning 8 June in the weeks that follow but we want the opportunity to review this in the light of any new government guidance (and the possibility of further widening to other year groups).

At this stage, we have not included our Nursery in the schedule – we will review this in the first week.

The school will be closed to most pupils each Wednesday to allow for rigorous cleaning and a changeover between groups.

The school will run to a revised timetable to enable safe entry to and exit from the site. The times of the day for all year groups will be:

	Birch Classes	Chestnut Classes	Oak Classes	Willow Classes	Key Worker & Vulnerable
Morning drop off	8.40am	8.55am	9.10am	9.25am	Any time between 8.00am and 4pm
Afternoon Collection	2.40pm	2.55pm	3.10pm	3.25pm	

We understand that some of you will be anxious about your child returning to school. In order to minimise the risks of returning to school we are putting in place all the following measures:

- Maximum number of 15 children per class with one or more allocated staff (a 'bubble')
- Children will always remain in 'bubble'. Each group will have dedicated staff who will work with this group. They will have a dedicated classroom and we will not be using any other internal rooms for day-to-day teaching and learning.
- Key worker children who are attending full time will be in a separate 'bubble'. They will not be permitted to join a year group 'bubble'.
- Outdoor spaces will be used for some teaching and learning, and also for breaks. Each 'bubble' will be allocated an outdoor space to prevent mixing with a wider group of children.
- Our educational focus will be on well-being, literacy and numeracy and, for the younger pupils, resocialisation. Children will generally be undertaking the same work planned for children at home.
- Lunches will be provided free-of-charge for all children eligible to return to school in the first two weeks.
- Breakfast and After School Club will not be operating due to the risk of mixing children from different 'bubbles'.

- Increased cleaning throughout each day.
- Focus on hand and respiratory hygiene for all.
- Increased physical distancing, where possible.
- Reduction of number of children and adults on site. We will stagger timings, and allocate different entrances to different year groups. Social distancing measures will be in place for drop off and pick up. Parents and carers will not be allowed entry to the school buildings without an appointment, which should only be in an emergency.

In terms of the personal protective equipment (PPE) the Government and Public Health England do not recommend pupils wearing a face covering, masks or gloves. Therefore, we will not permit their use in school by children.

We will have a rigorous system of cleaning and all children will be expected to wash their hands at set times throughout the school day. We have detailed plans in place to deal with any adult or child who shows symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in school.

Children will not be required to wear school uniform but should wear comfortable clothes suitable for indoor and outdoor activities. These clothes should be washed daily. Children will not need to bring anything into school – we will provide all the equipment required. We will not allow bags into school. Children may bring a packed lunch in a named bag (if he or she is not having a school packed lunch) and may bring in a fruit snack for break time (we will not be able to provide a fruit snack).

We will allocate different entrances to different year groups and social distancing measures will be in place for drop off and pick up. More details will be given to parents before school restarts. Parents will not be allowed entry to the school buildings without an appointment, which should only be in an emergency.

I am attaching a question and answer document which is based on some of the questions raised by parents and staff over the last few weeks. We hope that this will be useful for you.

In order to continue our plans for a wider opening of the school, it would be helpful to know the numbers of children we would expect to see in each year group. We are sending out a very simple survey through SchoolPing. It will have just one question! Please could you respond to that question by Monday so that we can continue our planning.

I realise that these new systems will take some getting used to, but I know that the staff and children will adapt; they always do. We are looking forward to returning to some sense of normality and thank you, in advance, for your support with this.

We have set up a dedicted

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email.

Best wishes,



Headteacher

**Any questions? Email: [returntoschool@pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:returntoschool@pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk)**

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# Possible phased return to school for some pupils

## Questions and Answers

### **Can my child return to school?**

We are planning to open the school in a controlled and measured way. In the first two weeks of June, we intend to open school for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Children will attend on a part-time basis.

### **What about children in Nursery, and Years 2, 3, 4 and 5?**

School will remain closed to children in those year groups until further notice. We will update you if this changes. In the meantime, we will continue to provide home learning activities for you.

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

Only children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be able to return. We will not be able to include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers.

### **What if I have children who need to be dropped off or collected at different times?**

If you have more than one child eligible to return, we can support you with this. Please contact us and we will work on a plan which will not need you to wait at school or leave and return.

### **Why can't the children return full time?**

The Government has asked us to limit the number of children in each class and to put in measures to ensure that groups do not mix. In order to achieve this, we will need more staff and more clever use of space. This would not be possible if we welcomed all those children back at the same time.

Our approach aims to limit numbers within the premises while ensuring that a good number of children will benefit from having some time in school.

### **Will my child be in Group A or Group B?**

We will let you know which group your child is in. This will be based on alphabetical order, by surname. We will only make adjustments to ensure that siblings are in the same group. We will not be able to allow any swapping of groups.

### **Who will teach my child?**

As far as possible, we want children to be taught by familiar staff members. It won't be possible for every 'bubble' to be taught by their usual classroom staff. We will only use members of the Pinner Park staff team. This will be a mix of teachers and teaching assistants.

### **Why are breakfast club and after-school club closed?**

We are not able to operate these clubs because children from different 'bubbles' are not permitted to mix on the school site.

### **Will my child be able to see their friends?**

Children will only be with other children in their same bubble. They will not be able to be with any other children on the school site, even if they are in on the same days.

### **Can my child wear a mask to school?**

No. The Government guidance states that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.

### **Will you be ensuring that everyone maintains 2 metre distancing through the school day?**

The Government recognises that, unlike adults, primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back, this is being taken into account.

We will be using a range of measures to reduce risk:

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

We will try to reduce contact between people as much as possible. We will prevent contact between persons in different 'bubbles' but contact will be inevitable within those bubbles, especially for our youngest children.

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

The Government is encouraging children in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

We take the view that this is a parental choice based on all the information we are providing. We will respect your choice in this matter and we will not be issuing any fines for non-attendance at this time.

### **Will school be 'normal' for those children attending?**

School will be a very different experience for those children attending. There will be a number of limitations to ensure that we minimise contact and mixing, and reduce the risk of infection. Classrooms will be rearranged – in older classes, children will be assigned a desk and resources for their sole use. They will not be allowed to circulate freely around the class or school. We will remove a number of resources from the classroom in order to reduce the risk of sharing.

### **Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?**

Children who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not attend school.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should not attend school.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) can attend, if parents wish them to.

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### **Can children be tested for the virus?**

If your child is attending school, he or she will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms - as will members of their household. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and the staff at school.

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

We will provide a packed lunch meal for any child who is in school, unless they bring in a packed lunch of their own. The meal will be eaten outside on dry days, otherwise in the classroom. We will not be using the school halls.

### **What if my child is unwell?**

If your child is unwell, he or she should not attend school.

If your child, or anyone in your household, has symptoms of coronavirus then you must follow the government's self-isolation rules. You can be tested to check.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Stay at home.

### **Why are you not keeping your usual opening hours?**

We have made changes to our start and finish times, alongside processes for drop-off and collection times to keep children and families safe.

Start and finish times will be clearly communicated to parents and carers alongside any other new arrangements.

### **How will drop off and collection be managed?**

Different classes in each year group will have a separate drop off and collection time. You may arrive on the school site up to 10 minutes before that time but we will ask you to maintain a 2 metre distance from other families at all times.

We will ask older children to come into school alone. For younger children one parent may accompany them. We will have clear signage showing the route into school. Please follow these signs carefully. We will ask children to line up observing 2 metre distances and we will have hoops and signs to help with this.

We know that some children may be anxious about returning to school. We will have to adapt the way in which we support children and parents if they are feeling worried but we will do our very best to support every child and parent.

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