



20 May 2020

Dear Parents,

Phased reopening of schools

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey at the end of last week, asking for your views on a proposed return to school from June 1, for children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside key workers' children and children needing additional support**, only. Overall, based on what you know at the moment, when asked if you would send your child back to school: **Yes - 38%; No - 30%; Maybe - 32%**. Thank you also for your helpful and constructive comments.

The reopening of schools will be based on the results of the five key tests set by the government, likely to be announced during the half term break, **and the availability of staff**.

Should schools reopen, we have created a plan to ensure we can keep children and adults as safe as possible, following guidance provided by government. The plan has been informed by the need for good hygiene and for **social distancing as best we can, given the challenge of working with young children**. In their guidance, "Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020," 12 May 2020, the government said:

"We know 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 (following) hierarchy of measures:

- *Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *Regular cleaning of settings*
- *Minimising contact and mixing*

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."

The plan makes the school look a very different place from what we have been used to, but will become the 'new normal' as we get used to living with the Covid-19 virus around us.

Return dates

The year groups will be staggered so that we can gradually and safely familiarise everyone into our new ways of working:

Key worker pupils: Monday 1 June (R, 1, 6 children will transfer to their class when their year group starts back)

Year 6: Wednesday 3 June

Year 1: Monday 8 June

Reception: Wednesday 10 June

Nursery: Monday 15 June **To be confirmed**.

School times

To support social distancing, we have also staggered the times of the school day for the different year groups.

	Start	End	Notes
Year 6	8:45 am	2:45pm (Friday* 11.30am)	
Year 1	9.00 am 8.45am SG	3.00pm (Friday* 11.45am) 2.45 SG (Friday* 11.45am)	
Reception	9.15 am 9.10 SG	Noon Noon	children go home for lunch. children go home for lunch.
Key worker(Y2-5)	9.00 am	3.00pm (Friday* Noon)	
Nursery	9.30am	11.30am	Mon/Tue group and Thur/Fri group (to be confirmed)

***Fridays:** School will close by **noon** on Fridays for **all pupils**, to allow for a thorough clean and for staff to "check-in" with children who are not attending school. Lunch will not be provided on a Friday.

SG = Southgate Green site.



New “Drop off” and collection arrangements

New Southgate Site

Morning “drop off” and collection, at allocated time

- Please bring your child onto the playground, through the usual double gates on Highworth Road.
- In the morning and afternoon **all** staff, in all year groups, will be outside to collect and dismiss the children.
- There will be designated zones for the classes to line up and a one-way system for you to enter and exit the playground by smaller gate on Highworth Road.

Southgate Green site

Morning “drop off,” at allocated time

- Please bring your child onto the area outside the **small Southgate Green gate**. A member of staff will meet children there and show them where to enter the building. Please do not enter the site.

Afternoon collection, at allocated time

- Please collect your child from the **grassy area in front of the school**.

To support social distancing

- Thank you for your co-operation in supporting social distance at all times.
- Only one adult per family will be able to come into the school grounds, for a short ‘drop off’ of your child.
- Please do not arrive any earlier or later than your allocated time.
- Any messages for the teacher should be sent to the Bowes Office email address, where it will be passed on.
- The main school office will be closed to visitors, but is contactable by phone/email.
- Parents will not be able to enter the school building.

Class organisation (N, YR, Y1, Y6)

- Classes will be split into groups of up to 15 children, dependent on age and size of rooms.
- If more children return than we can safely accommodate, we may have to introduce a rota system.
- Each group will be known as a **‘bubble’**.
- We will aim for each bubble not to integrate with another bubble throughout the school day
- Each bubble will have a member of staff allocated to it.
- This may not be your child’s usual class teacher. It may be a teacher from another year group. It could also be a member of support staff leading a bubble, under the direction of the teacher. This all depends on staff availability.
- The staff member allocated to each bubble will not be working with another bubble.
- Each bubble will have an allocated classroom in which they will be working throughout; this may not be their usual classroom.
- Once the bubbles have been established, children will not be able to change bubbles.



Provision for families of critical workers and children needing additional support

- The children of critical workers who are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will join the rest of their year group and will be in a bubble with up to 15 children from their class.
- The children of critical workers who are in Nursery, Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 will form a separate bubble.
- The number of bubbles they form is dependent on the number of children we will have, but there will be up to 15 children in each.
- Each bubble will be allocated a member of staff and an allocated classroom to use like the other bubbles.
- Drop off and collection will follow the plans stated above for the other year groups.

Playtimes / lunchtimes

- The children will have staggered breaks and lunchtimes.
- Children will only mix within their bubble.
- Each bubble will be allocated an additional adult to cover lunchtimes and release times for the staff. This additional adult will not be working with another bubble.
- All children will eat their lunch in their allocated classroom.
- Initially, all meals provided by the school will be a prepared packed lunch which will be delivered to the classroom.
- Packed lunch children can continue to bring in a packed lunch from home, in a cleaned container.

Curriculum / Learning

- The school curriculum will not resume fully, as learning will be different.
- Our usual collaborative approach will no longer be possible, with children working more individually and independently. This will also be the case in nursery and reception classes where “free” play and the use of resources will be very limited.
- Children will be spread out across the classroom, with children seated at an individual seat and table.
- Priorities for learning will include personal, social, mental and physical wellbeing and revisiting essential learning in reading, writing, maths, speaking and listening.
- Year 6 teaching will focus on readiness for secondary school, including academic readiness and will involve teaching of mathematics and English to make up for any losses to learning incurred while at home.
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged where possible and classrooms will be naturally ventilated at all times.
- Reading books will no longer be coming home.

On line learning

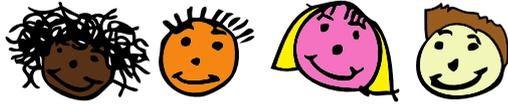
- **All** Y1-6 children will continue to have access to Google Classroom, but may receive less feedback due to staff now working in school.
- Nursery and Reception home learning packs will continue to be uploaded to the web site, for those children not in school.

Keeping safe through good hygiene

- Good hygiene practice will be in place: cleaning hands more often than usual; washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap; promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces and resources.
- Each bubble will be allocated specific toilets to use to minimise contact further.
- Daily cleaning will take place *throughout* the school day with a particularly thorough clean of classrooms, corridors, staircases and toilets each Friday afternoon.
- Equipment that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed/placed out of bounds, including all soft toys, soft furnishings, as well as outdoor equipment.
- It will not be essential to wear uniform during this time, as long as clothes are clean and appropriate for school.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The Government has said that PPE will not be necessary in schools, other than for a very small number of cases (e.g. routine intimate care needs and when supervising a child who becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus).
- However, PPE maybe worn by any child, should they wish to bring it in from home.
- Face coverings may not be worn by those who are not be able to handle them as directed (for examples, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child bring in anything from home to school?

- Children will be permitted to bring in their own named water bottle and packed lunch if they are not having a school prepared lunch. Please leave all other bags, toys, books, etc. at home, including pens, pencils etc, which will be provided by the school.

What will happen if I choose not to send my child to school?

- This decision as to whether you are “ok” for your child to return to school, is yours.
- The Government has stated that there will be no penalties for non-attendance.

If my child/a family member is considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable, should I still send my child to school?

- The Government advises children who have been classed as *clinically extremely vulnerable** due to pre-existing medical conditions to shield and therefore stay at home. (* or are living with someone who is *extremely clinically vulnerable*)
- Parents of children in the *clinically vulnerable* category ** should follow medical advice. (** or are living with someone who is *clinically vulnerable*)

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus?

- If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. All staff and children in the bubble will be encouraged to get tested.
- Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
- Where the child or staff member test positive, the rest of the bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Other household members of that bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

Confirming a place for your child’s return

- A **booking request** is attached to this letter, so that we can plan for re-opening, once it is confirmed by the government. Please could you respond by **31 May**.
- If you choose not to send your child back initially, but then change your mind, please contact the school office with your request and we will make arrangements for your child to join a bubble **the following week**.

All of the above will be kept under continual review, informed by national and local guidance, and we thank you for your co-operation, support and constructive feedback.

Best wishes,

Paul Barraclough
Executive Headteacher

Gulev Karayel
Head of School