



*In God's Name, We Learn to Love, Love to Learn, Learn for Life*

**Friday 29th May**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all enjoying the half-term break.

I wouldn't normally be sending out a newsletter during half-term but I feel it is important to keep you up-to-date with the latest development and our plans regarding re-opening.

By now you will know that the government announced yesterday that they are going ahead with the phased reopening of schools from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. As a MAT we have made the decision not to go ahead with this until June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Nest week, we will be open to all the children of key workers who have been attending school throughout the past month and any new key workers who have contacted school for a place. You will need to arrive between 8:45 and 8:55 through the main vehicle gate and should collect your children between 3:15 and 3:25.

We will then re-open for Reception, Years 1 and 6 on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be in school during this week to prepare the site, run through new procedures and take part in safety briefings. To allow for staff to have PPA time and prepare work for home learners school will be closed on Friday afternoons, except for key workers' children.

I will let you know as soon as risk assessments and staggered timetables are available on the website. If you have indicated that your child will be returning you will be told which group your child will be in.

To ensure everyone's safety, please take the time to read the re-opening plan as well as parent and pupil charters that are on the website. There will also be in in place for staff.

On the next page are the answers to some questions we have been frequently asked which may be of use to you.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Alison De Ste Croix*

Headteacher



## Frequently asked questions

### What are schools doing to prepare for the return of children?

Schools are preparing in a number of ways:

- i. Personal Protective Equipment is being ordered and delivered
- ii. Learning spaces are being measured out to consider the number of safe spaces for children
- iii. Hand washing facilities are being enhanced
- iv. Lidded bins are being ordered and installed
- v. Risk assessments are being drawn up and will be circulated to all staff.
- vi. Areas, where congestion may occur, will be marked with 2 metre markings e.g. The school entrance.
- vii. Timetables are being produced that will ensure different groups of children do not meet during the day eg staggered playtimes and lunch times.

### When you re-open won't the school gate be crowded and busy?

Each group of children will be given arrival times between 8.50am and 9.15am. A "trickle" of children arriving is anticipated. Floor markings will assist with social distancing. At the moment, approximately 60 children are expected back in school.

### How big will my child's class be?

The government guidance clearly states that children must not be in groups (also known as "bubbles") of more than 15 children. Each group must be kept completely separate from other groups in school. Each group will be assigned at least one teacher and where possible a teaching assistant.

### Will my child be back full time?

Currently EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils will be in school all week apart from Friday afternoons when they will go home at lunchtime. This will be before they eat.

Your child will be expected to attend school each day and not dip in and out – this is to allow continuity in education.

If we have any staffing absences or uptake in places increase, we may have to reduce the timetable to accommodate more pupils safely.

### My child is in one of the classes that is re-opening (Reception, Year 1 or Year 6), how will I know if my child has a place in school?

Recently, parents and carers were asked how they felt about sending their children back to school. If you haven't already let the school know and you want your child to attend school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June then please let the school office know by **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**. This can be done via email. If we don't hear from you, we will assume a place is not required. You will not be able to change your mind after this date. An exact number of children is needed to create the groups and assign staff to each group. Currently anyone that has indicated that their child wants a place – has got one.

### What if I change my mind and I want my child to start later than 8<sup>th</sup> June? When can I apply?

Parents and carers are asked to give one full week's notice. The dates are as follows:

Request to school by:	Child's start date
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July



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6<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July

The reason why a week's full notice is being requested is because additional children returning to school may take group numbers above 15. If this is the case then new groups will need to be created. As stated above, this may result in full time places being reduced to part-week places. Families need as much notice as possible, if changes are to be implemented.

**I am not a key worker, my child is not in a vulnerable group and is not in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 – can my child return to school?**

No. Teachers of children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to produce home-learning packs. However, every teacher and member of the support staff will be engaged in caring for children in school during the school day. Therefore, it will not be possible for teachers to respond to queries, as has been the case currently. Parents of children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 are asked to limit requests for support to no more than one a day from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Will children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 continue to receive home-learning packs if they do not attend school?**

Currently yes, but if increasing numbers of children return this may not be possible.

**The government has said it would like all primary school-aged children to return to school before the summer break. Will this happen?**

If groups of no more than 15 children must be maintained, this will be a challenge. Colwich does not have the capacity in terms of space and staff to achieve this.

**Can my child wear a face mask in school?**

No.

**What happens if a child exhibits COVID-19 symptoms?**

A child showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and parents and carers contacted to collect them. The child will not be able to return to school until a test has been carried out and they are cleared. If a positive result comes back then that child's group, including the teaching staff, will be asked to return home and self-isolate for two weeks.

**Does my child need to wear school uniform in school?**

No. Parents and carers are asked to attire their children in comfortable clothing. Younger children should wear clothes that they can manage themselves. For example, please do not send your child to



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school in shoes that have laces if your child cannot tie their laces. This requires a member of staff to be within 2 metres of your child. Your child will not need a PE kit.

### **What measures are being taken to ensure the children are kept safe when in school?**

Mid-Trent MAT has created a Re-Opening Plan which is on the school website. A risk assessment will be completed during half term which will explain the measures that have been considered to protect children and staff. This risk assessment will be scrutinised by teacher unions and published on the school website before 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### **What are the Child and Parent Charters?**

These are simple lists of reminders that we would like you to follow and are available on the newsletter section of the school website.

### **What happens now?**

Once we have numbers of children returning to school the groups will be arranged and staff deployed. You will be informed in next week's newsletter the group numbers and the days each group will be open.