



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an extremely busy week in school preparing for the safe return of some of our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. Whilst this has been going on, staff have continued to deliver home-learning and support our key worker children. Once more it has been lovely to see the fantastic work you have all been doing at home. Your photos and comments have put a smile on all our faces over the week.

### **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 parents who have opted to return to school**

We are excited and pleased to be welcoming some of the children back to school next week. We understand that for some of you this has been a very difficult decision. If you have chosen to stay at home or have no choice but to stay at home, work packs will still be available to you. Whether your children are at home or at school we are here to support you and listen to your concerns.

If you have applied to come back to school, you will have received a letter telling you which group your child is in and the drop-off and pick-up procedures for that group. On Class Dojo you will also find pictures of how we have prepared school and short videos about drop off and pick up routines.

We have had to make some difficult decisions this week regarding how we group the children. I know that some of you have indicated that you are disappointed with the groupings. Unfortunately, due to the measures that we have to put in place regarding social distancing, group numbers and staffing, it was just not possible to accommodate all of your requests. Staff have been advised not to move between groups therefore not all children are able to be with their class teachers however the work will be planned by them. We have spent a lot of time as staff organising the groups so that they we can keep all the children and staff safe.

To keep the whole school community safe, it is important that you arrive and leave school within the time slots that you have been given. Once again, please note that we will be shutting at lunchtime on Friday.

The guidance that is coming from the government has been up-dated several times since the group letters went home. On the letter home it stated that your child could bring into school; a wipe-able pencil case; suntan cream; sunhat and in the case of older pupils, tissues and hand sanitiser. **If your child brings any of these items in to school, then they will need to stay in school rather than being brought in daily.** We are also unable to send reading books home, so children should continue to use the online scheme (please contact your child's teacher for further information).

As the government is constantly up-dating its guidance, risk assessments and procedures will be up-dated and reviewed regularly. You will be kept informed of any changes via text and class Dojo. All current documents can be found by clicking [here](#).

Just a quick reminder that should you make the decision to send your child back to school over the next few weeks there is a requirement in the Mid-Trent MAT schools that you should give the school a week's written notice – this is to allow time to change groupings, staffing and the physical environment. In addition to this, whilst setting up classrooms this week, it has become apparent that



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we may not be able to cater for groups of 15 safely due to the size of our classrooms (currently no group is above 10); MAT directors have made the decision that once a particular year group is to capacity a waiting list is to be in operation.

Please see request dates below:

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
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July

### Key Worker Children

Up until now we have been flexible with start and finish times. From Monday, you will need to drop off and pick up your children within the allocated time slot sent to you earlier in the week.

### Children in Years 2 -5

Due to the Government guidelines regarding group sizes, all teachers will be back in school full time next week and are assigned to a group. Having just got accustomed to the challenge of providing home-learning, teachers are now, with the support of the EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 teachers, being asked to teach an age group that is new to them. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all their hard work and adaptability during these challenging times.

The above will have an impact on home-learning as the teachers will not be available throughout the day to answer any requests or to hold Zoom sessions with their classes. To minimise the impact, home-learning packs will still be available to all pupils on Monday mornings and staff not able to come into school will be available to answer messages and queries on Class Dojo. Mrs Ogradnik will be looking after the EYFS and Year 1 Class Dojo and Mrs Bowers the Year 2, 3 and 4 Class Dojo. They will introduce themselves on the relevant pages. I will look after the Year 5 and 6 Class Dojo. As well as this, the government are continuing to provide on-line lessons through the Oak National Academy. Please click [here](#).

Staff will check e-mails but not as frequently as they have been. To ensure that staff are not overwhelmed by e-mails, please can you limit e-mails to no more than one a day or if you have an urgent enquiry, e-mail or phone the office.

I am really grateful for the support that you as parents have shown the school during this time of change and thank you in advance for being patient with us whilst we navigate the next stage of this journey.

Click [here](#) for the latest Government guidance on schooling during COVID-19.



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## Finally

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff here at Colwich. They have shown a real dedication to the school and all your children. They have been going above and beyond in order to look after the key worker pupils, prepare home-learning, prepare hampers for free school meals pupils and this week preparing the school so we can adhere to all the guidelines that will enable us to open safely for more pupils on Monday.

Thank you to those of you who have sent their best wishes and comments of support to the school, it means so much as we continue to move forward. Thank you also for supporting the Government's guidelines during lockdown to enable our community to stay safe.

As always we remain here for all of you so please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns you wish to discuss.

Best Wishes

*Alison De Ste Croix*

Headteacher