



Brereton CE Primary School

School Lane, Brereton, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1RN

Tel. 01270 685125 Email: admin@breretonprimary.org.uk

Web: www.breretonprimaryschool.co.uk Headteacher Mrs K McLean

20th May 2020

Phased Re-Opening of Schools

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you that we have made the decision not to re-open to more pupils from 1st June. It is our intention to be honest and open with parents during this challenging time. We appreciate some parents will be relieved, some disappointed, some concerned. We will endeavour to provide you with all of the information that has led to this decision.

The staff are eager to welcome the children back but we must be cautious and ensure all safety measures are in place. Since the PM announced the re-opening of schools to more pupils (ten days ago) we have been compiling risk assessments, drafting timetables and writing guidance for staff and parents. Throughout this period, the Department for Education has released guidance designed to support schools. This, however, has meant our plans and guidance has changed daily.

All of the staff want to welcome children back as soon as possible. However, we have a duty of care and we can only increase the number of pupils on site when staff and parents are confident and secure with the safety measures in place. Whilst the paperwork may be in place and measures can be taken over half term to prepare the environment, staff and parents need more time to process the arrangements. The safety of staff and pupils will depend on strict adherence to timetables and procedures.

At this current time, the earliest we will open for YR, Y1 and Y6 is the 15th June. We hope you understand why we have made this decision and we are happy to discuss it further with parents if they wish.

Proposed plan for opening:

Going forward, our plan is to conduct a phased return.

Phase 1: Key Worker children (to work within their bubbles in their designated classrooms)

Phase 2: Reception – 15th June

Phase 3: Year 1 – 22nd June

Phase 4: Year 6 – 29th June

Phase 5: Other year groups

Each phase will be evaluated and risk assessments reviewed. If we are happy with the outcomes and actions we will proceed to the next phase. All decisions are dependent upon the government, LA and trust guidance at the time.



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(Matthew 22:36-40)





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All being well, school will be open for these year groups Monday to Thursday. Classrooms would be deep cleaned on a Friday. School would remain open for Key Worker children.

Bubbles:

Each year group will be divided into bubbles. Each bubble will contain a maximum of 15 pupils, a teacher and a teaching assistant. This is designed to limit the number of people staff and children come into contact with. The teacher and teaching assistant will cover one another's breaks so we don't introduce a new person into the bubble.

It may be your child does not have their current teacher. However, we are confident we have made the best use of staff expertise and children will be made to feel comfortable with their teacher. We also hope to provide Reception and Year 1 with an opportunity to work with their new class teacher. These details will be shared with parents before opening.

Bubbles will not mix. We have timetabled daily events carefully and there will be separate break times and lunchtimes.

If parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children are Key Workers and they require provision on a Friday, their child will be in the Key Worker group for the week.

Year 6

The government has instructed primary schools to prioritise key worker children, Reception and Year 1. These children will require six classrooms between them, meaning we only have one spare. This means we cannot accommodate all of Y6. In order to provide Y6 with some transition support, we are eager to try and accommodate them. Therefore, we will have to split the cohort into two groups and they will alternate weeks.

If Key Worker numbers rise we may not be able to proceed with Phase 4. We will however do everything we can to bring them in, for at least a session, even if it is at the very end of term.

Drop off and pick up:

Each bubble will be given a time slot within which to drop off or collect their child. This may mean there is a variation from the usual school hours.

Only one parent will be allowed to drop off or collect. Siblings must not come on to the premises (however lovely it would be to see them!).

There will be in a one-way system in operation with social distancing markers on the ground to support parents and children.



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Parents are encouraged to leave site and return home immediately.

Social Distancing:

The emphasis on social distancing will be on adults distancing from one another. Parents will not be allowed into school. Furniture has been removed from the staff room, teaching staff will not be allowed to access the office and staff will have to be off site by 4pm, so there will be limited contact with one another.

Staff will be instructed to strictly adhere to government guidance regarding social distancing when not in school. We will ask parents to follow these guidelines too.

In class, children will be provided with their own desk and set of equipment. However, we know children cannot social distance and we will not reprimand children. We will spend time teaching them the new procedures but we are mindful of the emotional harm severe social distancing can do. Instead, we will endeavour to promote safer distancing.

Before and After School Care:

Brereton Bears and Brereton Cubs will not run this term in order to prevent children in different bubbles mixing.

Key Workers:

School will be vopen from the 1st June for Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils. This will be for child care only and proof from employers will be required.

Once we re-open to more pupils, we will split the Key Worker group into a Year 2/3 group and a Y4/5 group.

Once we re-open to more pupils, if a Key Worker has a child in Reception, Year 1 or Y6 and they require provision on a Friday, their child will be placed in the Key Worker group (Y2/3) for the whole week and not in their year group. This is to prevent children in different bubbles from mixing.

A separate letter will be sent to those parents who have contacted us regarding Key Worker status confirming arrangements from 1st June.

Uniform:

Children should wear school uniform on their return to school. It is recommended that



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children wear clean clothes each day, so it may be children need to wear their school PE kit as an alternative.

We also recognise children may have outgrown their uniform so we will understand if this policy is not strictly adhered to. We would ask, however, that children wear plain clothes and sensible shoes as an alternative.

Home Learning:

Staff will continue to plan and provide Home Learning for those children not in school. When we re-open to more pupils, this will match what is being taught in school. Staff will endeavour to respond to messages and e-mails whilst in school and they will have dedicated time on a Friday to phone parents, upload work and respond to questions and comments.

We are really appreciative of all of the hard work and effort our parents have put in these last few weeks and we are keen to ensure this support continues.

These are just some of the measures we will take when we do re-open for more pupils. Further details will be provided in future correspondence.

Questions:

Parents too are having to make difficult decisions during this time. If there is anything you want to ask us please do get in touch. We will respect the decision of all parents and we ask that you do the same as not every parent has the option to keep their child at home.

From the 1st June we will start sending out specific guidance regarding the return to school. Each year group will receive a letter and a handbook explaining everything they need to know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs McLean



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