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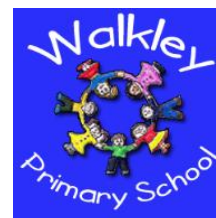
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Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



'Enjoyment, Achievement, and Learning for life...'

6th July 2020

Coronavirus Update: Monday 6th July
The Wider Opening of School: September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to inform you that our Primary School will **shut down on Friday 17th July 2020 and reopen to pupils on Wednesday 2nd September**. We will no longer provide lockdown learning for this period. **The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that we are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period.**

As we are expecting to move into the new school build in January 2021 and we do not know what the future holds regarding COVID 19, it is our intention to adhere to the COVID 19 and DFE guidance that is relevant in September and this will be reviewed/adapted when we move. The present decision has been made following DFE guidance (although we await further updates), the reduction in the R rate supported by Learn Sheffield and the director of Health for Sheffield, Greg Fell since 15th June and our own evaluation of our health and safety and hygiene procedures in operation over the last few weeks. So we are planning to move forward that all pupils will return to school on 2nd September. However, as usual the school may have to make changes in response to any new information and guidance from the DFE. Happy reading.....

1. Which year groups are returning to school in September?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back all children in all Year Groups if it is safe to do so from Wednesday 2nd September 2020. This will be kept under review. We are still awaiting the advice of SCC on wider opening and will let you know as soon as we have confirmation. You have already received information regarding your child/ren's new class and where the class will be based. You have also received your transition booklet and end of year report. It is our intention to fully reopen unless there is a change of local or national circumstance.

2. Will the school still have keyworker bubbles?

When we return to school, we will have just under 400 pupils, therefore every available teaching space in school is full as is staff capacity. The DFE request the move back to classes and therefore there will be no opportunity for keyworker bubbles whilst the school is fully operational, nor do we have the staff capacity to make this happen.

3. Will siblings still be in a bubble together?

As classes return, the only siblings that will be together are siblings within the same year group. The DFE guidance released this week refers to a change in stance on this point due to a reduced risk of infection in the general community.

4. Will children be repeating a year?

No. The talented Walkley teaching team are superb at differentiating and matching needs regardless of which year group they teach in. We will be examining the key learning that they need to catch up from the previous term during lockdown and identify gap filling to enable pupils to access their new curriculum as shortly after October half term as possible. **More details will be sent to you in September.**

5. Which days will school be open?

School will be open all day on Monday to Fridays for all pupils but will be operating under a staggered start and pick up. **You will receive more information about your times and waiting zones shortly.**

6. Will Nursery children be coming back?

Nursery pupils will be welcomed back in September. If your child is 3 years of age, please contact school to put your child on the waiting list. If you already attended Nursery earlier this year, and your child is still of Nursery age, you can use our Nursery provision as usual.

7. Does my child have to attend?

The Government has indicated that they expect all pupils to return to school and therefore the previous system of Walkley Primary School monitoring and challenging non - attendance will be reinstated including the fining system for persistent absence. We will be looking at an expected attendance of 96%

8. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending bubble class group size should be around 30 children per small group and one teacher plus a TA where required. We have placed the largest class with 38 pupils into the largest classroom in Tennyson building with maximised opportunity for distancing. Similarly instead of having 2 Year 4 classes in one classroom, we have utilised the dining room as a classroom. Space in school is now at a premium.

9. How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. 1m plus

We will of course do our best to support distancing, but parents must understand that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. We will be teaching children about the importance of social distancing and will expect our older pupils to adhere to this as much as possible. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is unavoidable e.g. a child needing comforting when they are upset or tending to a poorly knee after a fall. We cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do.

10. How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. We will be introducing them to 2m Rita in September as a character to remind them about distancing. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe. In school we will be starting each day with an age appropriate safety lesson which takes into account social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

- [Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story About Social Distancing](#)
Written by Kim St. Lawrence Read by Ryan St. Lawrence Note from the author: No children's story should be written in a weekend, but I wanted to get this out ...
- [Grover and Social Distancing](#)
As long time fans of Sesame Street, we thought that there would be no better way to spread some educational truth about staying safe during the COVID-19

11. What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

We will:

- Follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- Ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments.
- Clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal.
- Ensure that all adults and children frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- Ensure that all adults and children clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
- Ensure that all adults and children are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- Ensure that all adults and children use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins with lids for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it').
- Ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently.
- Consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.
- Ensure that bins with lids for tissues are emptied throughout the day.

- Where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units.
- We will prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation.

12. Will children utilise the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With the Autumn weather coming, we will still be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach, where possible. However outside of this we will keep children within one set classroom for the day. Our risk assessments around contact and spread are based around children being in a fixed and consistent 'bubble' of around 30 children with two adults. Where ever possible we will ensure that this bubble remains together at all times and does not cross with another bubble. Where bubbles potentially will cross, e.g. sharing toilet facilities, then those toilets will be cleaned more thoroughly throughout the day. Each bubble will have its own PE equipment, First Aid boxes etc. We will not be using the halls, there will be no assemblies in the halls and outdoor areas will be allocated to bubbles. **Pupils will need outdoor PE kit suitable for cold and rainy conditions.**

13. How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?

The schools will run a staggered lunchtime break to maintain as much spacing as is possible in the playground. Initially we will provide a cold packed lunch (with hot sandwich alternatives) to those pupils who normally have school dinners. Children are still able to bring their own packed lunches should they want. All meals will be eaten in small groups in the classroom or in the outdoor space identified for each bubble. School Meals will be delivered by Walkley staff to the children.

14. How will you make school safe for my child?

In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures mentioned above, we will

- Give children a designated classroom and group (which we are going to refer to as their bubble) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- Regularly clean the setting and resources.
- Provide a pack of resources for each child to use in class which will remain with them.
- Not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases, book bags and toys.
- Use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-viral wipes, as identified in our Risk Assessments, when providing First Aid.
- Organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently.
- Carry out clear social distancing and hygiene protocols around the building for all adults (children will not be moving around the building).
- Be vigilant in identifying children and staff with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them; a room has been identified for this purpose with full PPE kit for a member of staff if contact is needed.
- Employ a set of agreed non-negotiables on safety in the classroom agreed by the DFE. These will make every attempt to maintain social distancing for staff and pupils and limit any potential contact.
- Remove unnecessary items from classrooms, e.g. soft furnishing, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.
- Spread tables out and in Reception spread out their seating areas, and areas of learning so they have clear space around them.
- Children will keep their coats and lunchboxes at their table rather than use cloakrooms and Reception children will access the cloakroom a few at a time.

15. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Classroom-based resources like books and games can be used and shared within a group and we will clean them regularly, as we do for frequently touched surfaces. However, children will not share individual and very frequently used equipment like pencils and pens. They will have their own labelled pot and drawer for frequently used items. Children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home.

Any resources shared between groups, such as sports, art and science equipment, will be either:

- Cleaned frequently and meticulously, and always between groups using them; or
- Rotated so they can be unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different groups

16. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

The school will organise a staggered drop off and collection time for children and have identified entrances to school. We will inform you of the appropriate entrance for you and your child. You will be able to come into the playground to drop your child/children off. You will not be able to talk to the bubble staff, however, there may be staff there to talk to who are not part of the bubble arrangement. At all times we ask that parents keep themselves and children at the safe 2m distance. We will not be waiting to line up,

children will be directed to their classrooms and teachers as they arrive in the playground to reduce increased contact. We will do our very best to be sensitive to the needs of anxious children and I would encourage you to share with staff online if your child/children have any worries that they can help with.

Schools have no power under the law to enforce social distancing with parents other than to make that request and so we are relying on parents to be supportive of our safety measures. The outdoor equipment on the Burnaby playground before and after school as it will be the outdoor space of a bubble during the school day

17. My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare them?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. We will help you to prepare for this by putting pictures on our website to show what you and your child can expect and will send videos through our online platforms. We will be releasing a video about what will happen in and around school to share with your child/ren. This will be placed on the website. All pupils have had a transition booklet and new to Reception and present Y2 pupils will receive a transition video tomorrow. We are presently collating all the videos made so far over Lockdown into specific year group playlists for pupils and parents to access and to reassure pupils by having the opportunity to see their new teacher in action!

18. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication, friends, family connections and some have, we know, sadly even experienced the loss of a family member. All will have stories and experiences that they want to share with each other. This shouldn't be ignored. We will have to modify our curriculum substantially in September. We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed and we anticipate that as we settle in children will have a curriculum that meets pupil needs. We want to focus our curriculum on the essential core learning that children need to underpin other areas of learning as well as offering a rich, broad and balanced curriculum.

For pupils in **early years**:

- For children in nursery: focus on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development
- For children in reception: focus on the above, but also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and maths, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary
- For all children: follow updates to the [disapplication guidance](#) for the Early Years Foundation Stage and consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor learning

For pupils in **KS1 and KS2**, prioritise:

- Identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the 'essentials' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths)
- Identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely
- Developing their knowledge and vocabulary

Keep the curriculum broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year (e.g. sciences, humanities, the arts, PE, RE).

The Department for Education is planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments will take place in summer 2021, although it has delayed the introduction of the new [reception baseline assessment](#) until September 2021.

19. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, a team of staff will be available to provide support. Our Safeguarding Team are part of a very small number of adults in school who are able to cross into bubbles if needed and will observe tight hygiene routines; they alongside teachers and teaching assistants, will all work to ensure that children's needs are met. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play and rebuild friendships. If you have any worries please call us and conversely, if we have any worries we will be in touch to discuss how we can help. We will be introducing a mini five point feeling chart for each pupil, as well as the usual worry boxes practices we have in school already.

20. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. The Safeguarding Team will wear

PPE as they cross into other bubbles. Our PPA staff may also choose to wear PPE. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including: children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way.

if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'

21. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes. Children should come to school in school uniform in September as it helps them to feel settled.

22. Will Breakfast club or after school club be open in September?

No. Initially, In order that children and staff do not mix outside their 'bubble' we will be unable to provide any wrap around care at this time. Breakfast Club and After School provision would mean children from different bubbles mixing which increases risk. The school aims to minimise risk and is keen to get these two key aspects of wrap around care reintroduced as soon as the guidance changes. We are working with After School Club to see how we can manage under the new guidance.

23. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

Not immediately, until the situation is deemed to be safe, we will minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. We are also requesting that parents, instead of attending our school office or speaking to staff face to face, restrict themselves to using the telephone where messages are time sensitive or make use of our online platforms. Staff will still be responding to enquiries and Tapestry, albeit with less frequency because they will be teaching through the day.

24. Will my child still have music lessons?

We are working with the peripatetic teachers who teach violins to Year 4 pupils and recorders to Year 2 pupils to plan how this might be managed safely and reducing risk.

25. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

Not immediately as this brings too many children into contact and mixes the school bubbles.

26. Will the school office be open?

Yes, but our office will be restricted to staff only. Parents are requested to contact school by phone. This is again to reduce contact as much as possible and not because we are suddenly unfriendly! Similarly deliveries to site will be left at the door too.

26. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

In addition, the DFE says that our school will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that can be given to parents collecting a child with symptoms or staff with symptoms, if we think providing one will increase the likelihood of them getting tested.

27. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. See the [full list of essential workers](#). Education settings as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

28. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will wait in a safe, socially distanced space in the Main Hall with appropriate adult supervision. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

29. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

If they become aware that someone has tested positive, they will contact the [local health protection team](#). This team will also contact school if they become aware that someone at our school has tested positive. The team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who's been in close contact with the person when they were infectious, and make sure they are asked to self-isolate.

Close contact means:

- Direct close contact - face-to-face contact with an infected person for any length of time, within 1 metre, including:
 - Being coughed on
 - A face-to-face conversation, or
 - Unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- Proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected person
- Travelling in a small car with an infected person

To help our local health protection team, we will keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes place between children and staff. We will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus unless it's essential for protecting others.

If there's a possible outbreak

If there are 2 or more cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, PHE will work with our local health protection to decide if additional action is needed. In some cases, the team may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate as a precautionary measure, such as the whole year group. Whole-school closure will not generally be necessary, but we will adhere to this if our local health protection team advises it. If an outbreak is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to your school.

30. Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead if we suspect a child of having symptoms.

31. What if another child 'coughs' or 'spits' deliberately in someone else's face?

School will take this very seriously and it will be classed as an assault. We will explain to the child the dangers and consequences of these actions. Parents will be telephoned and may have to come and collect their child resulting in a fixed term exclusion, our behaviour policy has been amended to reflect this.

32. Will there be any swimming lessons or trips once school opens?

Unfortunately, there are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

37. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher through Tapestry (EYFS) or, you can email the office on enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk who will then pass the message on.

38. What should my child bring to school each day?

We do not want your child to bring anything into school with them other than a lunch box, water bottles, coats and a book bag for packed lunches. PE kit including a waterproof jacket should be brought to school on Mondays and taken home to be washed on Fridays. We are unable to use cups for those children without water bottles and so if you do not have one please consider saving an empty drinks bottle ready for the start of school that they can use.

39. Where can I find more information about returning to school?

There is limited information from the DFE at the moment, but as soon as we have more information we will keep you updated. If you have any further questions please direct them to enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

40. I would like to buy a present for the class staff at the end of this year. What can I do?

Please phone the office to make an appointment. It will be necessary for a parent to give the present (dated) to the office staff which will be placed in the stock room. Office staff will be wearing a mask and gloves. These will be left for 72 hours and then the member of staff will be able to go and retrieve their present. This will minimise risk. (I know, I know!)

Well that's it for now. Look out for more information regarding staggered times coming out this week and of course we will let you know if anything changes.....

Val Sian and the Walkley Team