

Walkley Primary School
Burnaby Crescent
Sheffield S6 2RZ

Tel: 0114 2340550

Fax: 0114 2310553

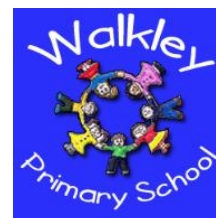
Email: enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.walkley.sheffield.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



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

9th June 2020

Coronavirus Update Tuesday 9th June 2020

Frequently Asked Questions: The Wider Opening of School June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

At the point of writing to you, we still have no indication from Sheffield City Council (SCC) whether schools in Sheffield will reopen on the 15th June, I have tried to answer some questions that are being asked by parents ahead of wider reopening and to update you about the rationale behind the grouping of the bubbles. The information below goes on a bit but I hope this helps....!

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside priority groups if it is safe to do so from 1st June onwards. Thank you for your responses via Google Form on your preference for a return to school for your child in June, most bubbles are nearly full and staffing is maximised. The Government's ambition is to bring all primary school year groups in for the last month of the Summer half term if conditions nationally make it feasible. 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.

2. What days will school be open?

School will be open on Monday to Thursdays and Friday mornings for pupils in F2, Y1 and Y6 who attend school. School will finish for these pupils **on Fridays at staggered times around 12 O'clock** in order to deep clean the school. Keyworker pupils will stay on site **until their staggered exit time nearer 3 p.m.**

3. Will Nursery children be coming back?

At this time we are uncertain about the reopening of our school Nursery.

4. Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based their decision on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus, directing smaller groupings (15 and under) in classes to allow for controlled contact. In order to facilitate these smaller groupings schools would have been unable to open to all year groups, for example we are using all of our teaching staff and the majority of our teaching Assistants and classrooms to being back Reception, Year One, Year Six and Keyworkers.

5. If one of my children is eligible to return can't their sibling come back too?

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups or meet the eligibility criteria for keyworkers. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school.

6. Does my child have to attend?

No one with symptoms should attend for any reason. All children in the selected groups are encouraged to attend unless self-isolating or shielding. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time and the schools will not be held to account for attendance levels. It may be that you do not feel ready to commit to attending from day one, but you may feel more confident as things settle down and want to send your child/children later. Equally you may send your child/children and then change your mind as situations change nationally. **However, it must be noted that children can only attend if there is bubble availability. We are unable to continually increase the number of bubbles due to insufficient classrooms and staff within school to accommodate new bubbles of pupils.**

7. I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category, school will continue to provide our current home education package to help with their learning at home.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions, again school will continue to provide our current home education package to help with their learning at home.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DfE May 2020

8. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending class group size should be around 15 children per small group and one teacher plus a TA where required. Soft furnishings/resources should be removed. Fortunately with parental responses so far received, we have been able to meet the staffing requirements, although it will mean that some children are not being taught by their usual teacher and teaching assistant.

9. How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

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. 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 and use this to inform their decision making.

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

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. 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 be confined to 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 summer weather coming we will 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 15 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 the, 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 and outdoor areas will be allocated to bubbles.

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 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. Free School Meal children will continue to receive vouchers if they are not attending school.

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-bac 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.

Having said all this we will be sending out videos of our classrooms via Tapestry and email for the younger children in particular to reassure them and your selves that their rooms are 'bubblicious' and recognisable as their safe places.

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

Children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home.

16. I'm a keyworker and my child has been in the keyworker provision throughout. My child is in YR, Y1 or Y6 what will happen to them?

Your child will join their year group bubble when it opens and attend school every day.

16a. What happens if my child returning to their year group bubble has a sibling who also needs to attend school but is in a different year group?

If your siblings will be or have been attending school together they must remain together within a bubble in school and will not return to their year group bubbles (unless both your children are in the same year group). They will remain part of the childcare provision within school.

17. I'm a key worker and I have only needed my Y1 child to access school childcare for 2 days a week up to now. Do they have to attend every day when school reopens?

The Government is advising that they strongly encourage eligible children in years Reception, Year One and Year Six to attend school as usual in their classes. As indicated in the FAQs ultimately it is the parents' decision, however if they are in a class bubble they should be in school all week to allow for effective teaching, this is not a day care club and class lessons will be taking place.

18. My child is in the childcare provision currently but isn't in the year groups above?

Priority for key/critical worker group and vulnerable children will continue to come to school. They too will be in separate class 'bubbles'. Parents/carers can continue to book this online system and we continue to ask that this provision **is only accessed if absolutely needed** as we have limited provision for those who have absolutely no other choice and are key workers unable to work from home.

19. 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 you 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

20. 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.

21. 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 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 also Personal, Social and Health education, Art, DT and PE. We want to focus our curriculum on the essential core learning that children need to underpin other areas of learning

22. 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; 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 or we have any worries call us and if we have any worries we will be in touch to discuss how we can help.

23. 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. 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.'

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

Yes. Children should come to school as close to normal school uniform as possible as it helps them to feel settled. We do know that this will mean daily washing and therefore ask that if it is not possible to wear uniform on certain days that they wear white and navy but not jeans. However, we are not precious about this.

25. Will Breakfast club or after school club be open?

No. In order that children and staff do not mix outside their 'bubble' we will be unable to provide any wrap around care.

26. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No, 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.

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

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school bubbles

28. 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.

29. Will you continue to provide online lockdown learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. With school reopening to a greater numbers parents will need to be mindful that teaching staff will not be as responsive online and if your child is in one of the year groups identified as returning then the best place for them to learn will be in school, again this is your judgement as a parent.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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 into the main entrance in the Tennyson Building; depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. 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](#).

[33. 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. **This is why it is imperative that siblings are placed together within bubbles.** The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

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.

[34. 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.

[35. What if another child 'coughs' 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.

[36. Will there be any swimming lessons or trips once school opens?](#)

No. 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 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 if they are packed lunches.

Please do not bring PE kit, rucksacks, book bags or pencil cases. PE will be done in their school uniforms to reduce the belongings coming from home into the bubbles.

Water bottles should be brought into school on a Monday and can stay in school and then be taken home on a Friday. 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 How will you sort out the bubbles?](#)

We will make sure that children are grouped into sibling bubbles as a priority, considering friendship as we think that this has priority over academic reasons and with a ratio of 1:7 roughly we will be able to give our children the best possible return both academically and socially. Our teachers know their classes well and are working on this now. However this may not be possible. **There may also come the time when bubbles are full and children may have to go onto a waiting list until a new social bubble can be established and staffed**

[40 Where can I find more information about returning to school?](#)

The Government information is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I am sure that you still have a thousand questions – the most important being when are they coming back? What time will they be in school? Which teacher will they have and which bubble will they be in? and whilst we have a plan for this I will share this information when SCC give us the go- ahead to return to work. I promise to get the information out to you as soon as possible.

If you have any further questions please direct them to enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

Val Sian and the Walkley Team