

Walkley Primary School
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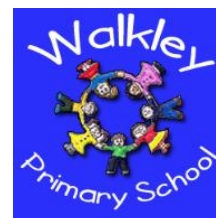
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Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



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

28th May 2020

Coronavirus Update Thursday 28th May 2020

The Wider Opening of School June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for your overwhelming support and faith in us that we will get it as right as we can and remember, it remains your choice whether your child/ren return when we do reopen. As a Headteacher, what you are about to read is breaking my heart and I can speak for all the staff as this is not Walkley Primary School as we recognise it or want it to be, but will do our utmost to keep the essence of Walkley. Here is a large update which will enable you to have a more informed choice.

- *For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). If there are any shortages of teachers, then teaching assistants can be allocated to lead a group, working under the direction of a teacher. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in other year groups should also be split into small groups of no more than 15. Desks should be spaced as far apart as possible. **DFE Guidance***
- *We have informed Learn Sheffield that we will not open on 1st June which has been approved.*

Planning and organising: Through consideration we have taken the following steps:

- Refreshed our risk assessment and other health and safety advice for children, young people and staff in light of recent government advice, identifying protective measures (such as the things listed below). Ensuring that all health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening.
- Organised small class groups, as described in the 'class or group sizes' section above
- Organised classrooms and other learning environments such as workshops and for those groups, maintaining space between seats and desks where possible refreshed the timetable:
 - Decided which lessons or activities will be delivered based on resources available
 - Considered which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors. We will offer outdoor provision predominantly if weather is permitting, including forest school. Otherwise, learning will take place in the classroom.
 - Used the timetable and selection of classroom or other learning environment to reduce movement around the school or building
 - There will be no assembly groups but visits from HT and DHT
 - Staggered break times (including lunch), so that all children are not moving around the school at the same time
 - Staggered drop-off and collection times
 - We have planned parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols that minimise adult to adult contact
- In addition, we have:

- considered how to keep small groups of children together throughout the day avoiding larger groups of children mixing.
- considered how play equipment is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously.
- removed unnecessary items from classrooms and other learning environments where there is space to store it elsewhere.
- removed soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)
- considered how children and young people arrive at school, and planned to reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible.

Keyworker pupils/ Vulnerable pupils (minimum 6 staff)

- Our school has been open to these pupils over the period of lockdown and during the school holidays.
- We are now moving these children into 'social bubbles' of approximately 15 pupils with two teaching staff.
- Pupils in these social bubbles will be from a range of cohorts.
- The children will remain in their social bubble and will not mix with any other social bubble group in school.
- Each bubble will have its own indoor and outdoor space.
- There will be a designated identified 'meet and greet' area for each bubble identified by painted lines at 2 metre intervals where one parent and child can stand at the beginning and end of the school day.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils (minimum 12 staff)

- We are now establishing 'social bubbles' of up to 15 pupils for the children returning to school with two teaching staff.
- Children previously attending school as key worker pupils will/can return full time to their cohort bubble to work with their peers and teachers.
- Pupils in these social bubbles will be from the same cohort but not necessarily from the same class.
- The children will remain in their social bubble and will not mix with any other social bubble group in school.
- Each bubble will have its own indoor and outdoor space.
- There will be a designated identified 'meet and greet' area for each bubble identified by painted lines at 2 metre intervals where one parent and child can stand at the beginning and end of the school day.

It is our intention to keep cohorts together where possible and:

- Ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days.
- Ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days.
- Ensure that wherever possible children and young people use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day, with a thorough cleaning of the rooms at the end of the day.

We intend to reduce mixing within education or childcare setting by:

- Accessing rooms directly from outside where possible.
- Considering one-way circulation, to keep groups apart as they move through the setting. The grounds are presently being marked out to establish designated areas.
- Staggering breaks to ensure that any corridors or circulation routes used have a limited number of pupils using them at any time.
- Staggering lunch breaks - children and young people must clean their hands beforehand and enter in the groups they are already in, groups should be kept apart as much as possible and tables should be cleaned between each group. If such measures are not possible, children should be brought their lunch in their classrooms.
- Ensuring that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time.
- Noting that some children and young people will need additional support to follow these measures.

We intend to use outside space:

- For exercise and breaks✓
- For outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff✓
- When we can ensure outdoor equipment be appropriately cleaned between groups of children and young people using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

- Breakfast Club and After School Club will not be open as this would mean that pupils from different social bubbles would mix therefore defeating the intention for social distancing of groups.

School Meals

Initially school meals will be cold packed lunches, until we establish our new routine when hot meals may be reintroduced.

Staff will have the option to wear/use Personal Protective Equipment. This may include:

- Face shields
- Face masks
- PPE aprons
- Gloves
- Thermometers
- Own 'bubble' first aid pack

Cleaning and Hygiene

- Sanitisers on the outside of classroom doors in Burnaby Hall and Yr 6 classroom.
- Sanitisers on the wall back into the classroom from the toilets.
- Soap and paper towels readily available in toilets.
- Lidded bins provided in toilets and classrooms which will be emptied throughout the day.
- Plentiful supply of tissues.

For cleaning and hygiene: 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. Review the [guidance on hand cleaning](#).
 - clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
 - are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
 - use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins 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 for tissues are emptied throughout the day.
- ensure, where possible, all spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening

- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation.
- ensure we have proportionate supplies of soap, anti-bacterial gel and cleaning products as needed.
- acknowledge there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational setting.

Social distancing

In all honesty, it will be very difficult to socially distance Reception and Year 1 pupils as they are naturally drawn to each other. All we can do is promote and adhere to the social bubble rationale whilst trying where possible to establish social distancing.

Full time allocations only

- **All places offered are a full time allocation.**
- **By sending your child back to school, you are accepting a full time allocation even if you only intend to utilise certain days of the week.**
- **Pupils will be allocated one bubble only and cannot attend different bubbles throughout the week.**
- **Places offered within a social bubble cannot be shared amongst pupils. If your child does not attend on any day, this place cannot be offered to anyone else.**
- **There will be no fines for non-attendance.**

It is extremely important that children attend full time if they are coming to school as this limits opportunities for contamination. Parents will also be updated with the changes regarding your role when you are on site. **The decision to send your child(ren) to school is entirely your choice based on the information shared with you in this letter.**

We know that this does not answer all your questions at the moment, but more information regarding staggered start and pick up times, class bases and staffing, and all our new rules and regulations will be sent to you as soon as we have further clarity. Thank you again for your patience. My head is spinning so much, I fear it may drop off!

Stay safe and well

Val Sian and the Walkley Team.