

Tuesday 19th May, 2020

Dear parents and carers

Thank you for your continued support in these unprecedented times. We want children to be able to return to school and are working to fulfil the government's plans which will mean welcoming back to school children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 initially and also, if possible, for all primary aged children to be back in school before the summer break. The safety of children and staff are paramount in our planning and we will be following closely all available guidance, in particular the grouping of children in classes of no more than 15.

We are planning for:

- children of critical workers and vulnerable children to continue to attend school as now, in our Kedington Care provision. As more children return to school, we will not be able to provide teaching and learning for this group and it will be solely childcare provision
- children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to attend school from Monday 1 June – all day Monday, all day Tuesday, Wednesday morning including lunchtime, all day Thursday and all day Friday. School will end at 1pm on Wednesday as all schools across the trust are having additional cleaning on Wednesday afternoons
- continuing the distance learning we have been providing for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, but in a reduced form

Over the last week or so, we have been working hard to put together the new routines and procedures that follow the latest DfE guidance and which will keep everyone as safe as we can. This includes measures such as:

- keeping children in small 'bubbles' with the same children throughout the school day and limiting the number of adults they are with as much as is possible
- keeping children in the same room, including when they eat lunch
- zoning the outside area for different groups
- planning for plenty of outside learning
- relaxing school uniform requirement
- staggering start and end times of the school day, as well as break times
- carefully thought through routines for dropping of and collecting, including marked waiting areas
- individual resources for each child
- designated seating for each child
- regular, thorough cleaning
- cleaning supplies, PPE, tissues, wipes, sanitiser etc. for each classroom

Once all our plans have been finalised, I will share them with you in more detail, including all the practical arrangements that parents will need to know. We are planning to upload some

Appreciating what we have ... aspiring to greater things.

videos onto Dojo to help you and your child see what the classrooms will look like and see how some of the new routines will work.

We are determined to do everything we can to make the return to school as positive as possible for those children who will be attending. Initially, we will be focussing on supporting children's mental and emotional wellbeing and their social skills as well as helping them to get used to the new routines and gently easing them back into learning.

However, it is important that everyone is aware that things will be very different in school. There is a big chance that your child will not be with their class teacher. They will be restricted to staying with the children in their smaller class group which may not include all their friends. Lessons and break times will also be very different due to the need to ensure social distancing and the fact that they will stay in their small groups.

As I explained in my message over the weekend, the small class sizes in school, along with our keyworker and vulnerable children provision means that staffing capacity will be stretched. This means that we will be unable to provide the same level of distance learning for children who are not in school. For those year groups who we are offering provision for in school (YR, Y1 and Y6), this will be very reduced and may just be signposting parents to external, high quality resources. For years 2, 3, 4 and 5, we aim to provide as much support as we can, given the constraints, but with nearly all teachers teaching in school all day, this will be much reduced. We are hoping to be able to maintain some direct contact with children through things like Zoom meetings and phone calls, but this will be reduced and we will need to prioritise according to need.

Our aim is to start this offer from Monday 1st June. This date is dependent on further confirmation by the government that these plans should go ahead.

These plans are subject to:

- the government confirming that its tests for the partial and phased reopening of schools are met
- schools having to adapt arrangements if the uptake by families of school places changes significantly from what was expected
- changes at short notice due to staff shortages – we are not aiming to use supply staff as we will be looking to, as much as possible, keep consistent groups of adults and children
- any action by Public Health England in the light of an outbreak of Covid-19 in a class

We understand that parents will have mixed feelings about their children returning to school. We will be surveying parents each Monday about their intentions for the following week, including about whether parents want their child to be provided with a school packed lunch or will bring their own. This first request for information is being made further in advance than we expect in future weeks. This is because we are still await further government guidance and have agreed to discuss the detail of the arrangements we are putting in place with the trade unions that represent our staff.

There will be no penalties for parents who are not yet ready for their children to return to school. If you have any specific questions that you would like to ask me to help inform your decision, then please get in touch. The best way to do this is by messaging me directly on Dojo.

Please use the link below that is relevant for your child and complete a survey for each of your children. We do not expect final confirmation by the government of a start to these plans until during the half-term week. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Please reply by the end of Wednesday 20th May. If you are unable to access the survey, then please complete the form below and return it to the school or email the information to admin@kedingtonprimary.co.uk.

Best wishes

Vicky Doherty
Headteacher

Survey Links

Keyworker families and vulnerable children, Y2, 3,4 & 5
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RD7HWWC>

Primary school children returning in R, Y1 & Y6
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QPT2SPH>

To complete if you are unable to access the survey:

Child's name:		School:		Year group:	
I do not wish my child to attend school 1-5 June					
		I wish my child to attend during 1-5 June			
If I wish my child to attend during 1-5 June					
I would like a school packed lunch					
		I will be providing a home packed lunch			

Return to school or send the information to admin@kedingtonprimary.co.uk