

Water Primary School

Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I just wanted to write and give you all further information regarding the planned reopening for certain year groups on June 1st, 8th and 15th.

Life at school will be different. Not what we've all come to expect, not the 'Water Way'. Opportunities and memorable experiences outside of the classroom will be difficult (apart from Forest School) and as somebody who believes so much in making sure our children have those rich experiences, this is tough, extremely tough.

Our school has been built on making sure we provide our children with joy, children who can't wait to be in school, to be inspired, to try new things. School will be different. Let's not hide from that. Teachers thrive on taking risks with learning in order to gain the very best outcomes. Classrooms which are active, fun places to be, with integrated group work, talking partners, one to one care and intimate explanations when things are not just sinking in will be difficult. It will be different.

Nobody went into teaching at Water, for this. However, we must ensure it is safe as possible, we will continue to place so much importance on relationships, we will be there, we will have smiles and reassuring conversations. We will try our best and we will love and care. Our teachers will expertly instil knowledge, we will share our hopes for the future. We will talk, we will listen and will do our utmost to make it as fun and engaging as possible. I can assure you all of that.

Government guidance has changed daily and it is extremely difficult to adjust and adhere to. They would like all of the year groups identified, back at school, no rotas, which is contrary to initial advice. Unfortunately, we do not feel that is the best policy for our school and we will be sticking to the original plan of a staged return. Governors and staff agree. We feel it is the best way to ensure our children are safe. It allows for more time for scientific advice and facts. It also allows our Year 6 to experience a new routine before other year groups. Year 6 will find it easier to understand the social distancing rules. It allows our staff and teachers the correct amount of time to plan, to organise structures and classrooms. It allows for risk assessments to be robust and rigorous.

Below are further measures we have put or planned to have in place. Sorry it is quite an exhaustive list to read through but I wanted you to be aware of the policies and procedures we have put in place to make the school environment as safe as possible.

We will have daily health and safety briefings with the staff and children. Children will not be allowed to mix with other groups or staff members within their setting. As mentioned previously there will be staggered start times for each class. Staff members have been assigned to each year group and will not mix between children. Each group will have their own entry and exit points and unfortunately no parents or visitors will be allowed to gain access to the school building. Each classroom has been measured and desks installed which will follow the strict social distancing measures that are needed. Children will not be permitted to bring anything into school, other than their packed lunch. Lunchtimes will be held in each group's classroom. With hot meals being delivered to the classroom for those who wish to have school dinners, who have infant free school meals and for those children who receive free school meals. Each class group will have their own lunchtime break outside and again social distancing rules will have to be in place.

We have ordered PPE for situations such as first aid care and for any suspected cases. The school will be thoroughly deep cleaned every Friday. Children who enter school will need to have their temperature checked on arrival. We have purchased extra thermometers. We have ordered two outdoor hot water sinks. One for the infant playground and one for the Forest School. We will be using the forest frequently during the reopening. We have ordered two new gazebos which will be situated in the infant yard. This will provide extra outdoor space for our groups. We hope to develop interactive/ virtual PE lessons for each group. This will need strict risk assessments and something we are currently working on.

We have been steadfast in ensuring all children during the lockdown are ok, constant dialogue, constant keeping in touch. Making sure everyone has the resources they need. This will not stop. Home learning has been appropriate, and we have listened to advice on this, we have made sure home learning packs are ready. We have continued to provide childcare and vulnerable children with a safe place to be. No stone has been left unturned. I am extremely proud of all the staff at Water Primary and I am extremely proud of you. Our parents, grandparents, carers and our whole community have been magnificent through what has been the biggest crisis this country has seen for decades. We will continue with all of this; we will wish for a new day and a return to the Water normal.

I hope this further detail helps with your understanding of what is required when more children attend school. As a parent myself, I know I would want as much information as possible before taking the decision to send my child to school. I hope this helps with your decision making. I have attached a FAQ below from the recent letter and survey I sent out. Thank you to all of those who have responded, there is still time to respond. The more information we have for the 1st June the easier it will be to plan. Please follow the link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=J6TmPZl2j02DCMIsgXzF54a3_kv7Lb_xJimwv_0YtkWBUOUNPRFZIN1RMMkYxOVoyU1kyQUxQV1NKRC4u

If you need anything or if you have further questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please take care

Mr Willan
Headteacher

FAQs

If a child is upset on first day back would you allow them to only have one or two days back at first?

Nurturing and pastoral care for all children will be extremely important to us. Every effort will be made to ensure all of our children are safe and understand the reasons behind the measures in place. As always parental partnerships will be key. We will be in constant communication and we will allow for time to adjust if needs be.

How many will be in each class. What times the school will be open to and from. How social distancing will be managed?

This depends upon numbers in school, we would hope to have no more than 10 in each group certainly for the younger years. Government guidance is currently set at 15.

Would there be an option for pupils to use Home Learning on part or full time?

Home Learning will still be available for all year groups to access. Frequency and the time to check responses may be less depending upon rota and staff time.

Basic information like how you are going to keep social distancing and hygiene and maybe the timetable for PE etc?

Please see further details in the letter attached. PE will need an independent risk assessment to be completed. Each class group will have their own zone and space. At the moment it may be more focussed towards fitness and running until we can get further guidance regarding equipment and how it can be cleaned etc.

Will the children in reception be able to have any physical contact at all with peers and staff?

Certain measures will need to be put in place, however the staff, relationships and smiles will always be there. Trusted adults will continue to look after your children and make sure they receive the very best care. Physical contact will be difficult however PPE is available for intimate care and first aid care.

Just to be reassured it will still be a fun place to go rather than a regimented scary structured place in the Children's eyes

Trusted adults will continue to look after your children and make sure they receive the very best care. Activities will be child centred and as engaging and fun as possible.

Is it worth sending our child in? Or would it be more beneficial to you and her to keep her at home with us? (From an educational point of view)

Everyone has done a tremendous job in terms of home learning, the teachers, the children and the parents. However it is not school and it can be quite difficult. Therefore from an educational point of view, school will provide a better environment for teaching and learning.

Is there provisions for checking temperatures of children each day on entry to school?

Yes all children will need to have their temperature checked before entering school. Extra thermometers have been purchased to allow for this.

How will social distancing be possible going forwards in our small school? Will our children have to attend other settings?

Each classroom has been measured and desks arranged in order to maintain the social distancing rules. With only certain year groups allowed to attend and with the phased opening it allows the school to use other rooms and space. In terms of other settings I very much doubt this will be the case.

School meals?

Meals will be delivered to the classroom zones. Children who would like Packed lunches can bring these in each day.

Is school open for key worker children on a Friday, or is school completely closed for a deep clean?

Critical worker children and vulnerable children can still attend on Fridays, however most of the activities will be based in the forest.