

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware the government announced last Sunday that they are aiming to partially open Primary Schools and Nurseries from the 1st of June, if the scientific evidence supports this. They are aiming for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils to return first followed by the remaining primary year groups before the summer holidays. The government has been updating guidance for schools and parents regarding this and the school has been preparing for how this would affect the school day for your child, once a return date has been confirmed.

Following the government guidance, below are some of the changes that the school may need to implement in order to provide the safest environment for both staff and pupils. Although the school will aim to implement social distancing to the best of our ability the government has acknowledged that this will not be possible in primary schools and nurseries.

Some of the changes that the school may take are as follows:

- No child or adult who is unwell and displaying symptoms will be permitted to attend, they **MUST** self-isolate until they are tested and cleared to return.
- Children who are shielding or living with those shielding should continue to shield and not attend.
- Regular hand washing and hygiene will become part of the timetable throughout the day.
- Enhanced cleaning will happen across the school both during the school day and after the children have finished for the day.
- Any child or adult that falls ill during the school day would be placed into isolation until collected and would not return until tested and cleared to return.
- If a child or adult tests positive for Covid-19, all children and adults in the group they are placed in must self-isolate and be tested negative before being cleared to return. The areas used by these individuals will be deep cleaned immediately.
- School may finish at midday each Friday to allow the school to be deep cleaned weekly.
- Start and finish times may be staggered to reduce the number of people arriving at the same time and to allow for social distancing.
- Protocols and queueing safely will be in place for pick up and drop off times.
- Nursery children will be placed with a key worker in groups of no more than 13 children.
- Staff will be assigned to each group and will not work across groups. This means that children may not be with their usual teacher or key worker.
- The school will modify the curriculum to continue learning but increase opportunities for hygiene practice and physical activity.
- Home learning will continue for children not attending school.
- **No sanctions or fines will be in place for not attending school.**
- The groups that children are placed in will not interact with other groups to minimise the chance of infection. This will require the same room to be used each day, lunchtimes to be staggered and children to play in different zones to avoid interactions between groups.
- Nursery children will only work in a zone of the nursery with their key worker and won't interact with other groups.

- School meals will be packed lunches for children to eat in their zone of the nursery.
- Parents and visitors will not be permitted into the school buildings unless absolutely necessary.
- Families are encouraged not to use public transport to travel to school.
- Only one parent/carer should travel with children to and from school.
- Outdoor play equipment will not be in use.
- Markings will be placed across the school and playground to help keep social distancing.
- Corridors may become one way to support social distancing.
- No large gathering will take place.

These are some of the intended changes that are likely to take place once the government confirms when schools will reopen. The leadership of the school is working to create a plan which will enhance safety for children and staff once we reopen. We will continue to update you with our plans as they develop, and further guidance is given by the government.

Next week we will be contacting parents and carers to ask if you intend to send your child to school once it reopens, if you intend to continue home learning or if you are still undecided. This will help the school to prepare for when we reopen.

Thank you for all the work and support you have given during these very trying times. We will continue to update you with further information as soon as it is available.

Have a safe weekend.

Kind Regards,

Jason Cook
Executive Principal
Arbor Academy Trust