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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We informed you last week of the government's intention to re-open schools to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils from 1st June. Information and guidance relating to this potential re-opening is ever evolving however the school has been planning, adapting and organising a clear strategy for the potential re-opening. I have now had a response from almost all of you regarding your child possibly returning to nursery from 1st June. If you change your mind at any point, please ensure that you communicate this to the school at least two days in advance to allow us to plan for the safety and re-integration of your child into the nursery.

Following the government guidance, I have outlined below some of the changes that the school will be implementing 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 always be possible in nursery settings and we therefore ask you to take this into account when making your decision.

To ensure appropriate measures are taken we will not be open to children until Thursday 4th June so that we can effectively train and prepare our staff for the return of children.

We have put together a strategy and have made adjustments to our school grounds and building to ensure:

- safeguarding remains effective
- we have safe entry and exits to the school grounds and building
- enhanced cleaning and hygiene routines are in place
- social distancing measures are implemented where possible
- adjustments have been made to the curriculum and timetabling of sessions
- risks to children, staff and members of the community have been identified and strategies put in place to mitigate those risks where possible.
- Infection control measures

Social Bubbles

Your child will be placed in a social bubble with up to 13 children. Your child will stay in this social bubble and will have up to two adults attached to the group. The social bubbles will have their own allocated areas in the nursery and outdoors, and activities will be set up both inside and outside with as much outdoor learning as possible. Designated areas will be clearly marked out. We hope you also understand that in some cases children may not abide

by these rules and we want to make it clear that we expect there will be times when social distancing cannot take place. At present I have planned for seven morning social bubbles and four afternoon social bubbles and these will be spread out across the whole building.

Communication

Once I have grouped children into social bubbles, you will then receive a phone call, text and where possible an email to let you know which group your child will be in and the adult that will be working with them. You will also be given a drop off and picking up time. Staggered start and end times will stop overcrowding at entrances and exits. The car park will be used for parents to queue and there will be markers to indicate 2 metre distances.

Cleaning

To allow for deep cleans and to keep the nursery as safe and hygienic as possible there will be cleaning throughout the day and at the end of days. To allow this to happen, the nursery day will finish at 2:30pm rather than 3:25pm and the nursery will close at 12:30 on Fridays so that a deep clean can take place. Toilet blocks have been designated to social bubbles and a cleaning regime has been put in place to ensure toilets and corridors leading to the toilets are sanitised at regular intervals throughout the school day.

Lunch

The children will eat their lunch in a designated area with the other children in their social bubble. Your child will need to have a packed lunch and this must be cold – lunches will not be able to be heated up. Your child will also need a labelled water bottle.

Illness

If your child falls unwell during the school day they will be removed from their group and placed in our designated isolation room and supervised until collected by their parent or carer. If a child or adult tests positive for Covid-19, all children and adults in the group they are placed in must self-isolate for 14 days and be tested negative before being cleared to return. The areas used by these individuals will be deep cleaned immediately. We are still awaiting clarity over tests for under 5s from the government, however parents and carers are advised to contact 111 for advice. Children will have an adult wearing PPE with them in the isolation room and care will be offered if needed.

Medication

If your child requires any medication please ensure when your child returns they arrive back at nursery on the first day with their medication which is in date and ready for them to use if required. This medication should be in a clearly labelled bag and handed directly to the group lead. Any new medical conditions must be indicated to the school before your child attends. Please indicate to the nursery if your child has a medical condition that places them in a high-risk category or you are aware that they are clinically or extremely clinically vulnerable.

Home Learning

If you are choosing to keep your child at home, the staff at Acacia will continue to make phone calls and provide you and your child with support and home learning through both the website and Google Classrooms.

These are some of the intended changes that are likely to take place but could change if government guidelines suggest otherwise. The leadership of the school is continually working on and reflecting upon plans with the safety of children and staff at the centre of importance. We will continue to update you with our plans as they develop, and if further guidance is given by the government.

A letter will follow after 28th May, when the government is due to announce if schools will reopen, indicating the social bubble your child has been allocated to, the lead for that bubble, the arrival and collection points for your child and where your child's social bubble will be located in the nursery.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support throughout these very difficult times and I look forward to seeing some of you again soon.

Yours sincerely,
Harriet Rose
Nursery Teacher