



Lightwoods Primary School

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6th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update Letter – Partial Re-opening

I trust you and your families are in good spirits. I hope I can explain clearly the plans we have for potential re-opening. Trying to explain all of this to you will take a while, so the highlights are here and further details follow.

As you may be aware, the guidance is shifting (when there is any!) so everything in this letter is **our intention**. Things may change.

Key points:

- We are following all Government and Local Authority (LA) guidance.
- However, the government are updating advice and lockdown as we write.
- Everything could change. **Below is our aim, and it is not final.**
- Extensive risk assessments have been completed previously and have been reviewed. These are checked by the Local Authority.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times when you are on site, 'hands, face, space'.
- Wear face coverings around the school site, unless you are medically exempt.
- Only one parent/carer per family.



- **From Wednesday 06 January 2021 (today):**
- We intend to be open every weekday to all EHCP, vulnerable and keyworker children.
- Those already confirmed with a place do not need to get in touch.
- Keyworker families that have not yet attended will need to book in with us.
- Places will be given to NHS and emergency worker children who require them.
- We will be open at usual times (08:45-3:15pm and/or 09:00-3:30pm) .
- Guidance from the DfE and LA restricts our class sizes to approximately **10 (Ten)**.
- With this limit in mind, our maximum capacity will be approximately 120 children. We are already close to this number so it is already *extremely unlikely that we will be able to offer additional places to those that have not already registered.*

- That said, get in touch and we will do everything we can to help.
- We will be closed to all other children and will continue online home learning for all of them.

Further details:

I am sharing all of the below with you so that you have confidence in the school. We want to assure you that we are taking the care of your children, yourselves and our staff. We want to be transparent and tell you everything we can. Not everyone will want to read everything.

Keyworkers – booking a place:

If you are not already attending, please speak to us. If you believe you or your families are in the keyworker categories, particularly if you have not been in contact yet or if your children have not yet attended, please get in touch urgently (email preferred, but phone is fine). Priority will be given to NHS and emergency workers' children.

Class size limits:

The DFE have said the maximum class size is 15 in previous guidance, but this includes secondary and primary children and does not account for classroom size. The Local Authority risk assessments limit our class sizes further – to approximately 10.

Bubbles and the rationale:

A 'bubble' is a new class of children.

Children will be allocated to a class bubble and this very unlikely to change. The rationale for this is to limit spread. As much as possible, bubbles will not cross or contact each other.

As much as possible, individual teachers and support staff will support a given bubble.

This means:

- Children might not be with their regular teacher.
- Children might not be with their friends.
- We will aim for bubbles to be created with children in the same year group, but especially for keyworker children, this is not always going to be possible.
- Some teachers will have to cross bubbles occasionally (e.g. sickness cover), and some staff are part time, so some bubbles may see multiple staff.
- Reception children who are also keyworkers will be in 'reception class' bubbles.
- Nursery/playgroup (keyworker) children may join reception bubbles depending on numbers.
- The guidance outlines that teachers and support staff are permitted to teach in different bubbles on different days. We will limit this, but it will happen.

So, classes will come in, be slotted into their bubble (class) and then taught for the day. Children will stay in this bubble during break and lunch.

Likelihood of further expansion and opening:

As you can hopefully calculate, with the current keyworker list of almost 100, plus our vulnerable children we are virtually full. Classes are of about 10 children. We are concerned we will have to prioritise keyworker groups and even then might not be able to meet all of your requests.

If attendance is low and stays low, or if guidance changes, we may be able to expand the vulnerable and keyworker lists. We will follow the guidance in any case.

Attendance:

All children offered a place will be offered a full time (5 day a week) place. It is your decision whether to send your child in (or not) on a given day. This is because once bubbles of ten are set, there is no cross-over. This is also because we want to help parents work.

Attendance will be tracked and we encourage excellent attendance. If you do not take up your place, we may offer it to another child, and therefore your keyworker/vulnerable place will be lost.

Curriculum:

For all children in school, we will try to follow a core curriculum where we can, but this will not always be the case. SEND interventions and visits may not be happening at present. For reception children, some phonics and mathematics will be taught every day, but there will also be a lot of play-based learning, social support and art based activity. Outdoor education and physical activity will be increased – even more than usual.

Equipment:

As a general rule, children should bring the minimum to and from school. Pens, pencils, etc., will be provided at school. They may bring spare clothing / changes of shoes.

Lunchtimes / breaks / snacks:

We are still in discussions with our catering team about hot meals. As a school we believe this is morally right to provide hot lunches. We will update you on this as soon as we can.

For the moment, please bring in a packed lunch and healthy snacks for your child unless they are entitled to free school meals.

All lunchtimes and breaktimes will be staggered so children are playing in large, zoned areas in their own bubble.

Health and Safety:

Obviously, we are following all guidance. Cleaning regimes were already increased. As soon as practical, we will be investing in a “fogging” machine, that pumps an anti-viral and anti-bacterial mist into the classroom, which settles and disinfects the whole area,

including nooks and crannies! That will help us to even more thoroughly 'deep clean' classrooms every week.

We have plenty of cleaning products, sanitiser and other such products and we are keeping a close eye on stock levels.

Entrance and Exit:

Parents are not permitted in the building (sorry!) but please do come and have a chat to us from a distance! If you need a private conversation, the telephone might be best.

No breakfast club or after school club will be offered on Wednesday 06 January 2021, (as we cannot maintain the "bubble" guidelines if we bring children together from different bubbles after school). However, we will review this daily and try to work out what will happen with before and after school. A survey will be coming out to keyworker parents about this.

Uniform:

School uniform is expected for those attending.

Siblings:

There are no current plans to permit siblings into school at present. If we have offered to one child in your family and not another, we apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

What do to if you get symptoms?

If you or your children get symptoms, please self-isolate.

Your child will be sent home immediately and we will ask you to self-isolate for the prescribed period, following the guidelines.

Yours sincerely

Rob Matthews
Head Teacher