



*Learning for Life*

## Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School

Headteacher: Sue Spearman

*Part of the*  
Templefields Multi-Academy Trust

29 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience whilst we have been making arrangements and plans for the re-opening of school for certain year groups from **2<sup>nd</sup> June**. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers for the support you have given the school during this difficult time. We are looking forward to seeing all of you as school begins the process of reopening to more pupils.

I have considered a number of options for the school re-opening, consulted with staff, local schools and also the governors and trustees of Templefields Multi-Academy Trust to ensure that our plans meet the needs of our community as best it can in these circumstances, putting the safety of our children and staff at the forefront.

I would also like to thank you for all your swift replies to the parent's survey and the footpath survey, this has been very helpful and I hope we have addressed some of your concerns in this letter.

You will see below that we have chosen a very slow phased approach to reopening the school to certain year groups and taken into considerations Government and Local Authority guidance and our own risk assessment.

- **Year 6** will be split into 2 groups of 15 children. Group 1 will be invited to school on a Monday and Tuesday. Group 2 will be invited to school on a Thursday and Friday. This will commence from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.
- **Year 1** will be split into 2 groups of 15 children. Group 1 will be invited to school on a Monday and Tuesday. Group 2 will be invited to school on a Thursday and Friday. This will commence from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June with group 2.
- Siblings of these year groups, who are in years 2, 3, 4 or 5 are not able to come back to school yet.
- **Key worker/ vulnerable children** will be able to come to school Monday – Friday in line with current provision. **School uniform should now be worn.**

Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please see <https://www.fandbharlow.uk/page/?title=GDPR&pid=217> or call the number below if you are unable to access the internet.

London Road, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0DA

Telephone: (01279) 429427 E-mail: [office@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk)



- Anyone who thinks their child now qualifies for a place in school as a child of a key worker, a vulnerable child or a child with an EHCP should contact the headteacher via [office@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk)
- Children cannot attend if they, or a family member they live with, have symptoms of Covid-19.
- Any children who are 'extremely clinically vulnerable' should not attend school.
- If someone in your household is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' (shielded). The DfE guidance states that pupils should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to. This means that the child is able to understand and follow those instructions. It may be possible for a Year 6 child to attend in these circumstances, but this would be highly unlikely for a Year 1 or Reception child.

The provision will be reviewed regularly and letters with further information have today been sent to the Y1 and Y6 parents.

- **Reception** will be split into 5 groups of 6 children and will be in school for 1 day per week. Commencing from 8<sup>th</sup> June. A letter will be sent out at the end of the week with more details.
- The school will be closed to children in Y1 and Y6 on a Wednesday to give time for a deep clean, teachers to have PPA time and also support on-line learning which will still be provided.
- On every evening, a deep clean will take place in classrooms where different groups of children will be arriving the following day – key workers room and reception classroom.
- Online learning will be provided for all classes and the class email, Seesaw and Tapestry will remain open for you to communicate with the class teacher and share your child's learning if they are not in school.

### **Do I have to send my child to school?**

The government guidance states that pupils are 'strongly encouraged' to attend. However, this is not the same as attendance being mandatory and the DfE has been clear that parents will not be fined, and schools will not be held to account for attendance figures during this period.

You are the first educators of your children. You know what is best for your child and your family circumstances and we will support that.

### **Public footpath**

Thank you to all of you who have replied to the survey with regards to the public footpath. We had 107 responses with some families preferring one scenario whilst others would use either. 73 families said they would use Chippingfields to London Road one-way system and 76 families said they would use London Road to Chippingfields. 96 families said they would follow a one-way system if we put one in place.

**Taking this into consideration from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June we will be encouraging all parents to use a one-way system where they use the public footpath, walking from London Road to Chippingfields.** There will be staggered start times and entrances used for those pupils who are returning to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> June onwards.

### **Contacting the school**

- You can still contact your class teacher via the class email, this will still be monitored but for those classes back in school, this may be a different member of staff answering.
- You can still contact the school via the school office.
- The school phones will again be manned on a regular basis whilst we have the staff available for this.
- We will not be opening the school office to visitors at this time.
- If your child is not attending school, we need to maintain regular contact with you. As we have been doing since lockdown.

I hope that this answers some of your questions, please continue to contact us if you need any further support either through the class email or the office email. Our corona virus webpage is regularly updated, so please continue to look at this too.

Take Care

Sue Spearman  
Headteacher

## Questions & Answers from the parent/carer survey

<u>Concern raised</u>	<u>Actions to be taken</u>
Keeping a safe distance between children	Staff are all in agreement that social distancing is not going to be easy to maintain at all times, but we will introduce some measures that are in line with government advice. Measures we will take include safety markers on the floor, adapting classrooms to ensure desks are 2m apart, one-way systems introduced around the school environment for staff and pupils and break times to be in small groups with games such as 'tag' or 'catch' prohibited. Throughout the day, staff will be constantly reminding children about the importance of keeping a safe distance and support them with the steps to take. Children will remain in their bubble group and will not mix with other children.
The increased stress on teachers and the impact this has on my child	Staff views have been taken into account when planning the phased return to school to enable them to feel as comfortable as possible at this time. Staff are cared for and supported by each other each other. The governors and trustees have reviewed the school risk assessment to cover their duty of care to staff.
How teachers will comfort children with social distancing in place	Teachers use many different strategies to care and comfort their pupils and always try to avoid unnecessary physical touch. Teachers use positive songs, reassuring words and are very receptive to what their pupils need emotionally. The curriculum will be adapted to support children's return to school.
Deep cleaning once a week will not be enough	Cleaning throughout the day will also take place, during break and lunch hour whilst children are out of the classroom, the room will be cleaned ready for their return, as will cleaning of equipment and the environment at the end of each day. Between groups of children in a classroom, a deep clean will also take place. Children will have their own equipment to use as much as possible.
I have health issues am worried my child will bring the virus into my home	Any member of the household that is currently shielding should continue to do so in line with Government guidance including children. We have instructed any members of staff who are shielding themselves or have a family member at high risk to remain at home at this time if possible. Please see this link for further information <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</a>
PPE	The government have advised schools to use PPE for only a small number of scenarios, such as when administering first aid or when assisting or changing a child. They have recommended that children

	<p>do not wear PPE. We have some PPE that we will wear for administering first aid and if we feel a pupil or staff member may be ill from corona virus.</p> <p>Please see this link for further information  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</a></p>
Will you be encouraging outside learning?	The use of the outdoor environment will be scheduled so that children in different groups will not mix. This could include using the outdoor environment for learning purposes.
My child is nervous/scared about returning to school	Staff will ensure that time is spent in school supporting children's mental health and well-being through a variety of sensitively planned activities. This will include a social story outlining the changes in environment and the school day timetable that can be read to inform the children. The phased return to school in small groups will allow children to adapt to their new environment slowly.
Putting the teachers at risk	Measures have been taken to try and support staff safety, including a one-way system for travelling around the school environment, staggered break times and significantly adapting any parts of school that encouraged congestion such as the staff room. Access to hand sanitizer and hand washing facilities will be available. Staff who are teaching the class bubbles will not mix with the key worker bubbles.
Prevention of any cross-contamination	The government have advised us to limit the transfer of items between the home and the school environment, meaning we will be discouraging the use of book bags. Lunch boxes and water bottles will remain with the child and will not be handled by staff. No reading books or letters will be sent home with the children. We will be supervising handwashing of younger children.
Will key worker children join their class	Bubbles will be kept separated. If a pupil has to use the key worker room then they will not be able to join their class. If a class bubble covers the working hours of a key worker and they need no other time in school, they will be able to move from the key worker bubble to the class bubble over half term.
Will children be able to use breakfast and afterschool clubs?	To ensure that children are kept in their own bubble we are asking parents not to send children in if they need breakfast club or afterschool club unless they are in the key worker bubble. This is to limit cross contamination; pupils will be in their home bubble and class bubble only.
Will social distancing be more difficult with more children in school.	We are taking a very slow and reflective approach to opening the school up further. We have staggered opening, break, lunch and end of day times. We are limiting the field use to only 2 bubble groups of less than 15 children. We will review the arrangements

	each time we consider opening the school further, including using the front of school entrances.
What would be the process if we chose to change our mind about our children returning to school.	<p>The government guidance states that pupils are 'strongly encouraged' to attend. However, this is not the same as attendance being mandatory and the DfE has been clear that parents will not be fined, and schools will not be held to account for attendance figures during this period.</p> <p>We will ask for an initial response when we write to parents with the class proposal and will then ask for an update every other week. At that point you can then opt in if you wish to.</p> <p>Following our risk assessment planning some of our classrooms, with social distancing, do not fit 15 pupils so when we are at the point of every child in a year group wanting to attend, we will then have to look again at the provision we offer that class.</p>
Will bubble groups be organised by friendship groups?	We will organise bubble groups by alphabetical order.
Will school dinners be provided?	<p>We will be resuming school dinners, although the menu may be different to that displayed on the website.</p> <p>We will still provide vouchers for those children who are entitled to them. The children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who are entitled to universal free school meals, will get their dinner free unless parents opt out of this.</p> <p>We will ask parents to book their child's dinners a week in advance. There will be a meat and a vegetarian option.</p> <p>We will ask all children to take their own water bottle into the dining hall.</p>
Who will teach the bubble groups?	Each year bubble group will be taught by the class teacher and a consistent teaching assistant (provided they stay well). The key worker bubble group will continue to be taught by a rota of teaching staff. The year bubble group staff will not mix with the key worker bubble group.
How will the general public follow the footpath one-way system?	<p>Unfortunately, we are unable to enforce the one-way system. We have written to the local community to ask them to avoid the staggered drop off and pick up times to allow social distancing to take place.</p> <p>Government guidance says that passing in a corridor or footpath is safe but by using the one-way system for ourselves we are reducing the risk.</p>