



Lee Brigg Infant & Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Sarah Gordon

Chair of Governors: Mr Andrew Emms

Lee Brigg, Altofts, Wakefield WF6 2LN Telephone: 01924 893829

www.leebrigg.wakefield.sch.uk Email: headteacher@leebrigg.wakefield.sch.uk

Monday 18th May, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Opening Update – Children returning to school from Monday 1st June 2020

Primary schools across England have been asked by Government to prepare and plan for a phased approach to reopening schools from Monday 1st June 2020, primarily for children currently in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 cohorts. This decision has been taken at Government level as opposed to being a decision that our school have any influence upon.

Preparations and planning are based upon models of Government guidance which have been prepared to risk assess settings to maximise safety for all. These 'new' proposals will operate alongside existing framework arrangements implemented for children of **critical** key workers and vulnerable children, some of whom have continued to attend school since restrictions made in March 2020.

Government phased reopening for Infant and Nursery Schools specify cohorts to return in order of priority as follows:

- Vulnerable children and children of **critical** workers.
- Nursery children
- Reception children
- Year 1 children

Further guidance from the Government, Department for Education (DfE) and Local Authority (LA) continues to be updated.

Firstly, I would like to reassure parents and carers that our staff will continue to be available as support network to all our families. We realise that for some families the current situation may be challenging - many of you continue to work, some of you are managing caring for your child(ren) whilst working from home, some are juggling caring for siblings of differing ages, at differing schools with differing academic requirements. Our wish for you and your child(ren) remains unchanged – you must continue to feel safe and maintain well-being – as such there will be no repercussions should your child be eligible to attend school on Monday 1st June 2020 and you choose to continue to allow them to remain at home.

As Headteacher, I am extremely privileged to be entrusted with care for the children of others and I am tremendously fortunate to work with a team of dedicated, caring and professional staff; however, with this privilege comes an enormous responsibility. This responsibility is one which has never felt so immense; whilst I am able to outline initial plans and proposals, I am only able to provide parents and carers with information as it becomes available, in order for you to consider when reaching a decision whether or not your child will return to school when eligible to do so.

General Information for Parents and Carers

As a school we have been asked to risk assess what we are able to safely offer to pupils and their families and to what degree we are able to meet the Government's current guidance. It is not a given that all schools will be able to meet Government expectation and reopen to all identified cohorts safely at this initial stage. Exactly what the offer may look like will very much depend on each school's individual set of circumstances and the demand for school places.



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Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss S Gordon - Deputy DSL: Miss L Kilkeny - Safeguarding Governor: Mr A Emms If you are worried a child is at risk of harm please contact either of the above or **Social Care Direct on 01924 303456.**

Copies of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the website.



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Organisation

Over the course of the next few weeks, Lee Brigg Infant & Nursery School will be working hard to consider feasibility of Government guidance. As I am sure you can appreciate, when planning and organising for the possible return of our children, there appear endless variables to consider. Some of the considerations recommended by the Government currently include:

- Organising small class groups (known as 'hubs')
- Organising classroom spaces to maintain distance between seats and desks
- Deciding which lessons or activities will be delivered as priority and reducing movement around classroom spaces
- Arranging staggered break times (including when and where lunch is eaten)
- Organising staggered 'drop-off' and 'collection' times for pupils
- Organising 'drop-off' and 'collection' routines which minimise contact and maintain social distance

This is in addition to considering:

- Maintaining small groups of children together in their 'hub' throughout the day to avoid larger groups of children mixing
- Considering how play equipment is used, ensuring appropriate cleaning of resources between groups of children accessing, and ensuring that multiple groups do not access simultaneously
- Removing soft furnishings, soft toys and all equipment which is difficult to clean or sanitise
- The logistics of a possible phased return for children
- The logistics of a possible reduced timetable for children

Although Lee Brigg Infant & Nursery School intend to observe Government guidance when formulating plans, we must emphasise that we are unable to guarantee the enforcement of social distancing within a primary school setting and most certainly especially not with those pupils who attend in early years cohorts. The Government have acknowledged that early years and some primary aged children cannot be expected to remain two metres apart from one another or indeed from staff. There has been shared a hierarchy of measures by the Government, which we will adhere to as diligently as we are able, in to maintain social distancing where possible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

What will happen should my child return to school?

We appreciate each of our families will have their own set of circumstances to consider however in order that you are able to make an informed decision whether or not your child will return to school when eligible to do so we must make you aware that our school will have to operate very differently to the one which your child left in March. Many of the changes enforced have been implemented to reduce risk. please read and consider the following to understand what measures will be put in place:

- Children will be taught in small year group based 'hubs' of up to, but not exceeding 15 pupils (this means children will remain in the same small groups when attending school and will **not** necessarily be placed with previous classmates)



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- Each hub will be allocated two designated staff members and staff members will remain consistent. We cannot guarantee that pupils will be taught by their previous class teacher
- Each hub will have a designated classroom base (this may mean that your child(ren) **may** be placed in a different classroom space to that which they accessed previously)
- Hubs will use outdoor spaces regularly throughout the day in a staggered arrangement to avoid unnecessary contact, which means children should be prepared for outdoor learning in all weathers
- Movement around school for staff and children will be maintained to minimum
- There will be a reduction in the use of shared resources, which means it may not be possible to provide resources to send home (such as reading books); however, pupils will continue to access reading schemes when in school.
- All children will eat a packed lunch in their classroom. We will unfortunately not be able to provide hot meals at lunchtime. Children will be able to bring their own packed lunch from home or can receive a packed lunch supplied by school
- Staggered 'drop-off' and 'collection' times for pupils will be in place
- Separate exit and entry points will be allocated to families to minimise contact and maintain social distance
- Only one parent / carer will be permitted to accompany each child (or family of children) onto the school site
- Regular handwashing and respiratory hygiene practices will continue with rigour
- Cleaning and site hygiene will be enhanced
- Staff will socially distance from one another. We will continue to promote and teach the concept of 'keeping our distance' and 'giving each other space' with our children. We would ask our parents and carers to be mindful of this in reality - the younger our children the more challenging this will be. ***Under no circumstances will we compromise a child's emotional wellbeing, sense of emotional safety and security in favour of maintaining social distance***
- Where possible, children will be prevented from sharing resources and equipment
- If one member of a hub (either staff or children) becomes ill with COVID-19 or displays COVID-19 symptoms, every member of the hub will be required to self-isolate / remain at home for two weeks
- The learning of phonics, reading, writing and mathematics will resume alongside the need for social and collaborative work, in addition to activities to promote emotional health and well-being.

What will happen should I choose to keep my child at home?

Should you choose to keep your child at home, I would like to reassure you that there will be no action pursued in regards to attendance related sanctions for the remainder of this academic year. The Government has confirmed that parents will not be fined for pupil absence and schools will not be held to account for any reductions in attendance at this present time. ***To further reassure, all nursery and school places will remain secure whether or not you decide to return your child(ren) to school when eligible.***

For those who choose not to return their child back to school when eligible, information and activities will continue to be provided, although this approach may differ in frequency from Monday 1st June 2020, as it is anticipated that all staff will return school undertaking full-time responsibilities for the children in their care.

Please advise school of your intentions...

As I write, we continue to receive further clarification and updated guidance; however, in order for us to continue to develop our plans, I am asking parents and carers to advise of your intention whether you feel that on the offer of an eligible place and in light of the information provided to date you would return your child to provision.



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In order to assist in the planning process Waterton Academy Trust have created an online form for parents and carers to complete. We ask that you please complete this form **no later than Monday 18th May 2020** (the deadline for submission is 12 noon). The link to the form can be found below:

Please click here to access the survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVBJDRK>

Staff from Lee Brigg Infant & Nursery School will be following up survey responses with a telephone call to parents / carers on **Tuesday 19th May 2020** (however, please could we ask that you complete the survey prior to the specified deadline of Monday 18th May 2020).

Please note that staff are unable to provide further detail around specific plans until a clear indication of requirements has been realised following consideration of the data relating to survey responses. Should all parents and carers with children who are eligible to return wish their child to come back to school, this would equate to 80% of our children potentially attending. We do not have the physical space to operate under Government guidance given for **all** children who are eligible to attend on a full time basis as they did previously. We understand that this may result in the provision we are able to offer under current Government guidance being unsuitable for all, however, we must adhere to guidance in order that we are able to invite as many children back to school as safely as possible. Once requirements for school places are realised we will be able to provide further detail.

Whilst we collectively share the objective to return all pupils to school and resume a degree of normality, my key priority is a safe return to school in line with current Government guidance as well as local level risk assessments for all staff and children. For those parents / carers who do intend to return children back to school after half term, please be assured that, although we **cannot** completely eliminate risk of potential transmission, we **can** implement measures to minimise potential of transmission. I would also like to assure you, that for those returning, there **will** be numerous and significant measures implemented to ensure the greatest safety for all.

Thank you all for your continued support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Gordon – Headteacher



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