



Shirley Community Primary School

Shirley Pre-School

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Phased Re-opening of Shirley Community Primary School and Pre-School

Dear Parents and Carers

Thursday 21st May 2020

I hope everyone is keeping well during these challenging times for all of us. I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support over the past weeks of lockdown and school closure. Thank you to those of you as well who have completed the surveys around school re-opening. We have looked at those surveys and used them as a basis for our plans for re-opening.

The prime consideration for us at every stage of the decision-making process is the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff. In putting together our plan, we are following all of the current guidance from the Department for Education, the Local Authority, Trade Unions, Health Professionals and working together as a whole team to consider all aspects of health and safety all of the way.

We have completed a risk assessment for our school site, incorporating staff and pupils. The control measures we are putting in place include the following:

- individuals who are unwell with symptoms of coronavirus, or who have someone in their household who does, may not attend school
- increased hand cleaning (additional timetabled routines will be in place)
- regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the day
- minimising contact and mixing between people in school by altering entrance and exit points to the school building, classroom layout to increase spacing and decrease class sizes
- children and staff being in smaller 'bubbles' that do not mix during the day; therefore it cannot be guaranteed that children will necessarily be with all their friends or their class teacher

We have decided that the safest way to open our school will be gradually, over a two-week period – doing this will give us the time we need to secure our new systems, and keep health, safety and wellbeing at the highest possible level:

- **On 1st June**, we will be welcoming back children who have been with us throughout the closure period, and establishing them in their new 'learning bubbles', as well as other children of keyworkers who have said they wish their child to come back. Staff will return to work during the week of 1st June, to take part in training, work through procedures, get necessary learning and activities ready, and establish routines and changes to the school building and site.
- **From the week of 8th June**, we will start to integrate children from Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We will do this gradually, to work closely with the children to help them adapt to their new learning environment:
- **Monday 8th June** – Pre-School and Reception pupils
- **Tuesday 9th June** – Year 1 Pupils
- **Wednesday 10th June** – Year 6 Pupils



At this **stage we are only admitting children whose parents have said they wish them to come back in our surveys. We cannot yet allow other children back into the building as we have not made plans for them and numbers would not allow it.** We will review this over the following weeks in June, and then allow a 'second wave' of pupils when we agree it is safe and manageable to do so. We will inform parents about this in due course.

The other key changes we have made to our routines, which you will need to be aware of are:

- **Our school day will be 9am-3pm.** Children will remain in their bubbles, throughout the day, with the same staff.
- **There will be no Breakfast or After-School Care Club** – we do not currently have the capacity for this.
- Childcare will continue to be provided in bubbles for children in Years 2-5, if they are vulnerable or the children of key workers.
- If staff from the bubble are unable to attend school, for whatever reason, then we will contact parents and **your child will not be able to come into school.** They will continue with their learning at home.
- **School will close at 12:15pm on a Friday,** for staff to have PPA time to plan, prepare and assess the children's learning, as is their entitlement.
- **There will be no hot school lunches at this stage.** We will work with our catering company, ABM, to be able to provide packed 'grab and go' lunches, or children will bring in their own packed lunch. Parents of FSM children will continue to receive vouchers from the scheme.
- We will be refining our policies and procedures for health and safety and behaviour management. **If any child behaves in such a way that compromises our daily operation and the safety of children or staff, parents will be contacted and they will have to go home.**

Our provision for the foreseeable future, will, like all other schools, continue to be a mixture of home learning and lessons and activities in school. **The Government has announced an aspiration for all primary pupils to return to school for a month before the summer holidays. I want to be frank with everyone at this early stage and say that it is extremely unlikely that they will be able to achieve this aspiration without a significant change to the current national situation.** We understand that this will be disappointing and frustrating news to many of you, and it is a great shame for me, as Headteacher, that I will not yet be seeing all of our children back at school yet. However, I want to reassure you that, in making our decisions and plans, our guiding principles have been:

- The safety of children, families and staff
- The education of the most vulnerable pupils
- Successful management of a dual education system, ensuring a consistent educational experience for each pupil, whether they are learning at home or at school

A further announcement is expected from the Government on 28th May; we will of course be considering this as part of our future plans and will liaise with you as necessary.

We will send out further information to you during the week of 1st June, giving you further information about routines, procedures and expectations from the week of 8th June.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation.

All my best wishes

Mr Cattermole

