



New Close Primary School
An Acorn Education Trust School

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Porter
Headteacher: Mrs L Kilminster

18th May 2020

Dear Parents

As you will have read in the letter from the Acorn Trust, the government has asked schools to plan and welcome back our children, starting with children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 after June 1st. In order to minimise the risk of pupils, staff and extended families, transmitting and catching COVID19, the school and the Acorn Education Trust are working hard to implement government guidelines and make these guidelines appropriate to our setting at New Close.

It is important that you read the information below, so you can make an informed decision about your child returning to school. Once you have done this, can I please ask you to complete our questionnaire ([here](#)) so we have a clear picture of the number of children we will be expecting when we return after half term.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE:

Will my child be in their own classroom?

Depending on numbers and the size of space available, children will be put into small groups of no more than 15. They will use only a dedicated classroom but this may not be their normal room. There will be limited access to the remainder of the school. Where any essential movement is needed this will be closely monitored to ensure social distancing measures are kept. These groups will be known as 'bubbles' and children will not be allowed to mix with other children outside of their own 'bubble'.

Will my child be taught by their own teacher?

As we have had to split the children into much smaller 'bubbles' it is unlikely that your child will be taught by their own teacher. Your child may be taught by a teaching assistant, who will be following planning from their class teacher. Where possible, we will try to ensure that your child is with someone who is familiar to them.

How will social distancing be managed in the classroom?

For Year 1 upwards, each child will be allocated their own desk. Desks will be clearly named and positioned 2 metres apart. When your child enters the classroom, they will be directed to their table where they will keep their bag and coat for the remainder of the day/morning. Each child will be given their own resource pack, which will contain classroom equipment. At all times in the classroom, pupils will be encouraged to maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. Limited movement around the classroom will be in place to reduce the risk of coming within 2 metres of another child.

For our younger children, it is harder to apply social distancing requirements. We will be implementing some of the measures used for our older children where appropriate (including creating some individual tables for our reception children). We will be reducing the amount of toys/activities available and ensure that there are fewer children in the shared spaces. Where possible we will create

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individual sets of activities but this cannot be guaranteed as this is pupil number dependent. Where possible, at the end of each day, staff will use sterilizing solution to wash any used equipment. Children will be asked to wash their hands after handling equipment in class if it is likely that this has been used by another child.

It is important to recognise that whilst we will be promoting and encouraging social distancing measures we cannot guarantee that this will happen, especially in younger children.

How will social distancing be managed during break time?

When pupils are in the playground they will be reminded to keep apart at all times and, whenever possible, we will provide a dedicated play area. As such, playtimes will be staggered, which will ensure that playground areas are only used by very small groups of up to 15 pupils. If your child would like to use skipping ropes/other small outdoor individual toys then they may bring them into school. These must be named, be used only by your child and be in their bag.

Will school lunches be available?

School lunches will be available as usual for children in Reception and Year 1, and for those entitled to Free School Meals, but these will be packed lunch only. They will need to be ordered in advance.

On the 'Return to School Induction Days' (week commencing 1st June) children will eat their lunch at their dedicated tables in their classroom. They will be supervised by the staff members in charge of their group. For those that have not ordered a school packed lunch, they will need to bring a packed lunch and drink to school.

From the week beginning the 8th June, when children are in school for 4 mornings, you can still order a packed lunch but this will be for your child to take home as there will be no lunchtimes.

Children also need to bring their own water bottles in each day. These must be clearly named. We are not yet able to confirm whether the Reception/ KS1 fruit and veg will be available for snacks. So please do provide a snack for your child if they are used to having one during the day.

What lessons will my child be taught in school?

Learning in school will involve primarily the teaching of basic English and Maths skills: recapping previous learning before lock down and work to prepare children for the next stage of their education. Some of this work will link to the work on the website, which will continue to be uploaded. In addition, we will be providing opportunities for children to develop their social and emotional skills, which are even more important at this current time. We would ask you to ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day.

Will my child need to wear school uniform?

Any child attending school will be expected to be in school uniform. It is important that clothing is washed every day, though we do appreciate that it is not always possible to wash and dry all uniform in time for the next day. Clearly, this may impact on available uniform. We are also aware, that over a period of 8 weeks, pupils may have grown out of their uniform or school shoes. Therefore, some pupils may not be able to wear their usual uniform items. In this instance, please ensure that your child wears as much of their uniform as possible.

What level of hand washing will my child be expected to maintain?

All children will be regularly reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds. All children will be expected to wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school, after they go to the toilet, when they have come back in from playtime, before and after lunch/snack time and at any point where they may have coughed or sneezed into their hands. There will also be some hand sanitizer available in school too. Toilets, door handles and surfaces will be cleaned regularly and the school will be cleaned thoroughly each evening.

What do I do if my child, or anyone living in the same household, shows any symptoms of COVID19?

For the safety of others, it is vital that your child remains at home and the whole family must follow the strict guidelines of self-isolation for 14 days. It is also very important that you inform the school as soon as possible as we will need to inform the parents of other children attending to be extra vigilant. We ask that in all cases, you continue to regularly check for symptoms, such as a high temperature, ideally, on a daily basis. Staff will be directed to do the same. Any child or staff member with symptoms of coronavirus will be required to be tested. Any confirmed cases will result a deep clean of the areas used by that bubble and any children/staff from the same bubble will be required to stay at home.

Where should I bring my child at the start of the day?

At the end of this week we will send you details of where to bring your child at the start of the day and the start times for morning arrivals. However, drop off and pick up points will be clearly marked and staff will be visible. On arrival, it is very likely that there will be other parents and pupils arriving at the same time. We ask that you follow the same rules for social distancing at all times and ensure your child stays by your side. After a long period of time at home with you and the school set up not being what our pupils are used to, some young children may find this handing over distressing. Please be aware that we will not be able to physically help bring your child into the classroom and you cannot enter the school building either, but we will do what we can to encourage and distract to help them make that transition.

We would like to reassure you that we will do everything possible to ensure that this transition to the 'new normal' is as straight forward as possible. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or your child's class teacher.

Having read the above information, please now complete the questionnaire – please [click here](#).

Yours sincerely

Louise Kilminster
Head teacher