

Barewell Road
Torquay
Devon TQ1 4PA



admin@st-margaret's.torbay.sch.uk

01803 327090

Partial Reopening Plan for Monday 1st June

20th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Torbay Schools are working closely with the Local Authority and other partners to support families during the Covid 19 pandemic. Following the announcement about some children returning to school from 1st June, we have been working with all schools and the Local Authority to agree an offer to those families that are eligible. Of course your child may have been attending school for some of the time since the end of March and they will still be able to attend *if they meet the criteria to do so*. Primary schools and nurseries are now planning to open to more year groups (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) if it is possible and safe to do this after half term.

In partnership with the Local Authority and Torbay schools we have agreed that we will welcome back all eligible year groups on a part time basis. In the first two weeks you can expect a minimum of five teaching days to be provided to your child. Attendance is encouraged but is voluntary and no action will be taken (such as a penalty notice) if you choose not to send your child.

For St Margaret's, we will be welcoming back to school children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on Monday 1st June along with vulnerable children and those children of critical workers in all years.

We will only have one class from each year in school at one time. This class will be working in a *bubble* which means they will not have contact with other bubbles. Each class (one bubble) will be split between two classrooms and will not have contact with children in other bubbles. For example, they will have separate playtimes, separate lunchtimes and will be dropped off and collected at the start and end of the school day at different times to children in other bubbles. The same adults will be working with these children as much as possible and these adults will be having separate break times to other adults in the school. We will have 4 bubbles in school: a Reception class, a Year 1 class, a Year 6 class and a vulnerable children / children of critical workers bubble.

Who's in when for the first 2 weeks?

Year	Mon 1 st	Tue 2 nd	Wed 3 rd	Thur 4 th	Fri 5 th	Mon 8 th	Tue 9 th	Wed 10 th	Thur 11 th	Fri 12 th
R	Ash	Ash	Ash	Elm	Elm	Ash	Ash	Elm	Elm	Elm
1	Pine	Pine	Pine	Beech	Beech	Pine	Pine	Beech	Beech	Beech
6	Hazel	Hazel	Hazel	Hawthorn	Hawthorn	Hazel	Hazel	Hawthorn	Hawthorn	Hawthorn

(NB If we continue as planned this will repeat for the second 2 weeks. While an update will be provided closer to the time, please assume this will happen if you need to plan shift patterns at your place of work.)

What is the structure of the day?

	Start of Day	End of Day	Entrance / Exit	Drop Off / Collection	Location	Play Time	Lunch Time
VP / CW	8.45-8.55am	3.05pm	front slope	front slope	Y5 classrooms (& Cherry if needed)	10.40-11.00 main playground & Arts	12.50-1.30 Eating in the hall then main playground & Arts
Year R	8.55-9.15am	2.45pm	car park	Reception classrooms	Reception classrooms	As needed in own area	11.50-12.45 Eating in the hall then in own area
Year 1	8.55-9.15am	2.45pm	front slope	Year 1 classrooms	Year 1 classrooms	10.15-10.35 top playground & Orchard	12.20-1.00 Eating in the hall then top playground & Orchard
Year 6	9.15-9.30am	2.55pm	front slope	Bottom of slope	Year 6 classrooms & Maple	11.00-11.20 Woodland Den playground & field	12.50-1.30 Eating in class then Woodland Den playground & field

How will social distancing be achieved?

Maintaining social distancing between children is very difficult as they struggle to understand this concept, especially the younger ones. Strict enforcement of this between children will likely heighten their anxiety. As the risk of transmission from child to child is now considered to be very low, we will take a carefully measured approach with children, encouraging as best as possible while not frightening them.

In addition to the bubble arrangements described above, staff will be discussing and reinforcing social distancing with children regularly. With the little ones we already talk about keeping a "big bear" in between them and their friends. Teachers will use times like circle time to support a better appreciation e.g. by developing the virtual hug and exploring

scenarios like what to do when sharing. Gentle reminders will be used at all times around the school, in corridors, classes and playgrounds.

Numbers will be limited to a maximum of 15 in each class.

Each child will have their own tray space away from others to keep their personal items such as lunch box, drinks bottle, bag and waterproof.

Staggering the start and end of the day along with having different play and lunch times will keep each bubble separate.

Staff will be maintaining social distancing between themselves and will be doing their best to maintain this with the children.

How will we reduce the risk of any possible transmission?

If any staff members show any symptoms they will not attend school and will be tested for the virus.

If any child shows symptoms, they must not attend school. If they show symptoms while at school, you will be asked to collect immediately. While waiting for you, they will be isolated from others and any member of staff supporting them will wear personal protective equipment.

An enhanced cleaning programme will be in place with increased hours of work for these staff. For example there will be a deep clean of classrooms in the middle of the week for those rooms that have a different class bubble for the second half of the week. Teaching staff will clear surfaces at the end of each day so that they can be properly cleaned by the cleaning staff.

During lessons only one child will be able to go to the toilet at a time. Once back in class they will have to use the hand gel to back up the hand washing which they will have been asked to do in the toilet.

Before break and lunch, children will be supervised washing hands. Washing hand routines will be modelled in class.

Hand sanitizer gels are provided in all rooms as an *extra* to hand washing, not a replacement.

All children will be provided with a zipper bag to keep all essential stationery in.

Where possible, staff are working different shift patterns to avoid contact with others e.g. kitchen staff, Meal Time Assistants (MTAs) and cleaners. Teaching staff will have separate break times to other teaching staff in other bubbles.

Foot-pedal-operated bins will be provided for classrooms to avoid unnecessary use of hands.

How do we plan to keep equipment clean that has multiple users?

All soft toys have been removed. There will be a more limited choice of equipment and much of the very small equipment will be avoided if possible. There will be a limited choice of books.

After school on the mid-week handover between classes (Tuesday or Wednesday), small plastic toys and equipment will be placed in a large bucket of sanitiser overnight. (these will be wiped clean in the morning before use by the new class). Larger play equipment and resources such as outdoor bikes will be allocated to the cleaners' schedule for cleaning.

Wooden toys and well-used items such as laptops and pencils will be disinfected by wiping down with wipes as required by teaching staff; this will be done at least once a day at the end of the day. Older children might be supervised to do this themselves.

Children will use hand gel before and after using tools in the Orchard.

What are the arrangements for drop off and collection?

Access to the school will only be via the main slope and entrance in the car park. *Please note that the rear gate by St Margaret's Close will not be in use.* Only one parent will be allowed on site with their child and please maintain a 2m distance with other parents and children. Please do not gather in groups with other parents. There will be signs on the main gates as a reminder. See 'What is the structure of the day?' for more detail.

What are the arrangements for lunchtime?

The kitchen will be offering a reduced menu. There will be a hot meal meat and vegetarian option only along with a desert. Please note there will be no sandwich option and no salad bar. The meal will be provided in a simpler boxed format that we're calling 'grab and go'. Meals can be booked as normal via Meal Manager on the School Gateway from next week. The menu can be found on the website under 'Parent Carer' or by clicking [this link](#).

All groups apart from Year 6 will go to the hall for their lunch. Seats will be marked with a cross to indicate where children cannot sit therefore keeping a gap between each child. MTAs and kitchen staff will serve the child with their *grab and go* boxes (one for their hot main and one for their desert). Once all children have finished eating, they will go outside to play in their designated area, supervised by 2 MTAs.

Children will be expected to bring their own drinks bottle to the hall. Water will be available to refill bottles if needed.

Once the children have left the hall, there will be a 10 minute gap before the next sitting so that all the tables and seats can be properly cleaned.

Children will have different zones to play in as they do at morning break.

What are the arrangements for free school meals from 1st June?

All children in Reception and Year 1 attending school will be entitled to a free school meal as part of the government's funding for the Universal Free School Meals offer. Any child in another year group who is entitled by eligibility will also be able to have a free school meal in school.

All children who are entitled to a free meal by eligibility, will continue to receive the *Edenred* voucher.

Can I visit the main office?

If you need to come to the office, please use sanitizer when entering the building and maintain social distancing as indicated by the markings on the floors.

What will happen if the numbers of vulnerable children and critical workers' children increase?

If this happens, we may have to close the school to other year groups if we feel it is becoming too crowded and therefore less safe for children and staff. If this happens, we will start by closing to Year 6 followed by Year 1. I will contact you at the very earliest time possible to communicate this. However, please be aware that this may be quite short notice as we have to prioritise critical worker children and vulnerable children.

Will my child need to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

No. Your child will not be expected to wear any PPE whilst in school. Advice from the government is that PPE can be detrimental to safety for young children and so we would ask that you do not send your child in with PPE, such as face masks.

If my child is vulnerable or I'm a critical worker, should they join their class?

On the day that their class is in school (see 'Who's in when for the first 2 weeks?') they should join their class. On the other days, they should join the vulnerable pupil / critical worker group. This is the only time that bubbles will cross. As this is unavoidable, you may want to consider arranging your shift patterns (if possible) so that your child stays at home on the days that their class is not in school. Please note though that vulnerable children and those of critical workers will always be prioritised above the other groups.

What will learning look like for children in school and at home?

Teachers of children in Reception and Year 1 will be focussing their planning on class-based learning with the primary focus initially focussed on personal, social and emotional education to help children readjust to life in the classroom and school. Home-based learning

will be scaled back in line with the expectation that these children should now attend school.

Children in Year 6 will initially follow a similar programme of work in school as set for home-learning to help them with consistency in preparing for secondary school. As well as benefiting from direct non-virtual teaching, they will also have personal, social and emotional education to help them readjust. They will also be working on transition in preparation for Year 7.

Please note that reading books will not be sent home during this time.

Children in other year groups will continue with home learning as currently.

Should my child be in school if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6?

Yes, if we have the capacity and they do not have a pre-existing medical condition that makes them clinically extremely vulnerable. You can check if your child falls into this group by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version>

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Few if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Should I send in my child if they live in the house with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable as described above?

It is advised they only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect these individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home

Can my child attend school if I'm a critical worker?

Yes but only if there is no one at home to care for your child. If your child is in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 or Year 5 and can be cared for at home, they must stay at home. Please only send your child to school if they can't be cared for at home. Staffing this group of children is very problematic due to the fluctuating numbers and the last minute adverse impact this could have on staffing for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. High numbers in this group may make it necessary to cancel the Year 6 provision which will cause last minute problems for parents of these children.

Will my child have to wear uniform from 1st June?

No, children will not need to wear uniform. This is to help ensure clothes are not shared / mixed. It will also help make transition to PE easier. Children should attend in casual clothes that are comfortable and suitable for running around in. We recommend that children wear a completely different set of clothes each day they attend.

Will children in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 be coming back to school before the summer holiday?

The government has the aspiration that all children will have a month in school before the summer holidays. We have no plans in place at this stage to do this. It also seems unlikely that this will happen. Speculating, we may be able to have a shorter taster return for these groups but there is no guarantee.

AN APPEAL TO CRITICAL WORKERS AND PARENTS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Please book your place for your child as soon as possible. Please do not leave it until the day before. This is essential if we are able to properly plan for staffing.

Final comments...

Having said all the above, the government has not yet said for certain that children will definitely return on 1st June. The final decision on this will be made in a 7.00pm announcement on national television on Thursday 28th May, just 3 days before Monday 1st June. I will write to you on Friday 29th May to confirm the above plan or to notify you that we will only be opening for vulnerable children and those of critical workers.

I understand this might be very confusing and you might have lots of worries and questions. If so please feel free to phone or email school and we will be happy to try to help. Either myself or Mrs Pike is always on the school gate in the morning or after school so if you're out for a walk or dropping off / collecting, please do come and chat to us.

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and do not intend to send them to school on 1st June, please let the office know at the very earliest opportunity. This will help us plan better and will be much appreciated.

As always, very best wishes to you and your families,



Tim Hughes
Head Teacher