



13th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: update on possible reopening of schools

First and foremost thank you for your patience and understanding while we waited for further information on reopening schools – the government has now published more guidance:

[Link to government guidance for parents](#)

A quick summary:

If the government thinks it is safe, schools will reopen from 1 June to nursery, reception, year 1, year 6, year 10 and year 12 pupils.

Our childcare provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children will continue to run as it has been doing, however if you are accessing this provision and your child is in one of the above year groups they may be joining their peers when schools open more widely.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be carrying out risk assessments and creating a detailed plan to support us to welcome these year groups back, if it is deemed safe for us to start the phased reopening of the school then. The details of any reopening will depend on the results of the risk assessments in individual schools, head teachers and Local Governing Bodies will work together with Pathfinder Schools in order to assess the risks involved and use these to inform any decision making.

We will be following the government guidance and taking the following precautions:

- Limiting class sizes to groups of 15. The guidelines state clearly that children will remain in their small group for the school day and must not associate with any other groups in the school. This may mean that your child is taught by an adult in school other than their class teacher, we will do our utmost to ensure that adults in charge of groups remain constant, but cannot guarantee this.
- Limiting the equipment available to that which can be cleaned at the end of the day and ensuring that this is not shared between groups. This will mean that the curriculum will have to be limited in order to maintain safety and to ensure children do not share resources e.g there will be no team games in P.E. nor group games during the times children will be outside. For reception and year 1 children the guidelines advise that some of their resources (games, soft toys and equipment) have to be removed from classes as we cannot keep these clean.
- Staggering pick-up and drop-off times for different groups of children with the possibility of part time attendance or a shorter day. Enforced social distancing during these times with only 1 parent/carer picking up and dropping off from a designated place on the playground.
- Delivering a modified curriculum in order to support children's emotional needs.

- Increased cleaning of group areas.
- We will be ensuring that pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms stay at home. For those who develop symptoms they must stay at home for a minimum of 7 days. If a household member develops symptoms they must stay at home for 14 days. The government guidance states that when schools reopen more widely where pupils or staff in school test positive for the virus the whole class will need to self isolate for 14 days so will not be able to attend school.
- If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group (ie received a shielding letter/text message) they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance – **clinically extremely vulnerable** or **clinically vulnerable** for further details of these groups.

The government agree that social distancing of young children (Nursery, Year R and Year 1) is not possible and have informed us that these precautions, which are based on scientific evidence, will be sufficient. We have asked for details of the evidence but as yet these have not been forthcoming. We would like to reassure you again that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school and the Local Authority will not be fining non-attendance – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing.

Please be reminded that in the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we're told it's safe to do so, we're unable to provide places for other children.

We recognise that some parents will judge the risks to be too great to return to school at this time. If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 we would ask you to complete the attached survey by Monday 18th May, letting us know whether you will be attending school or not in order to support our plans.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4n5QHX-61UeKsvmBZTciEJXbzbWFgiBMmzl8nuWCBDVUMIZNREIUMFBOQTkxWEEwN09QN05SSFQzSS4u>

Kind regards,



Chief Executive Officer
Pathfinder Schools



Head Teacher
Hawthorn Community Primary School