

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Further to my previous letter dated 15th May 2020, I wanted to write and provide you with a detailed update of our revised plans to enable all Year 6 children to return safely to school.

From the 1st June 2020, please note that vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers will continue to access childcare as a priority group. Then, from Monday 8th June 2020 all Year 6 children can also return to school on a full time basis.

To facilitate this return, since the Government's issued guidance on Thursday 14th May 2020, I have been working with the Senior Leadership Team to look at how we can logistically and safely bring potentially 51 Year 6 children back into school, alongside the children who are either vulnerable or whose parents/ carers are keyworkers.

We have undertaken extensive planning and risk assessments to enable this to happen and to reassure you that we are putting into place substantial changes to keep the children and staff as safe as we can in the current climate. The Government have admitted that we cannot remove all risks, but we do feel that with the measures that we are going to be operating under, then we will be able to minimise these to the best of our abilities.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but some of the key measures include:

- 2 metre floor markings on indoor and outdoor surfaces to facilitate social distancing
- Five groups/ 'bubbles' of children (with no more than 15 children in each group), with staggered start times to facilitate the new hygiene and social distancing measures that will be in place in school throughout the school day.
- Children stay in their class 'bubble' for the majority of the day, using the same classroom, and will not mix with other groups.
- Excess furniture will be removed to increase space in the classroom to facilitate social distancing
- Children will keep to their desks when in the room
- A social distancing charter will be created for and with the children– (include instructions how to line up, use of toilet, handwashing, moving around the classroom safely etc.). This will be re-visited and modelled many times each day, linked to school's behaviour system, with the use of praise points for adherence.
- Lessons planned for individual work (not pairings or group work)
- Feedback will be provided using the large whiteboard and interactive whiteboard to avoid close interaction
- An area will be marked out at the front of the classroom for the teacher – ensuring 2m distancing at front of room
- Children will be assigned a desk with their own equipment and stationery to use each day
- Writing equipment, rulers etc. will be cleaned with a virucidal solution daily
- Teacher teams and LSAs will be assigned to these children and stay with them throughout the week where possible
- Children's (named) bags, coats and lunchboxes will be kept under children's tables
- During staggered break times and lunch times, the children will be able to play with other children in their bubble.

- Toilet blocks will be allocated for different groups of children and facilities can be used on a 'one at a time' basis
- After using the toilet, children will follow the handwashing guidance and use hand gel on their return to the classroom
- Regular handwashing will take place before and after every activity and children will be regularly reminded and encouraged to wash their hands
- Balls and equipment with hard surfaces that need to be shared shall be regularly sanitised and all surfaces and handles wiped down at regular intervals each day using a virucidal spray
- The school office will be closed to visitors and shall only accept online payments, telephone and email messages

I would like to emphasise that because schools are human organisations and not designed for this complex situation, whilst we shall strive to do all we can to keep everyone safe in school, we know from working with children that none of the measures outlined in this letter are guaranteed to be adhered to 100% of the time. We cannot guarantee that your child will not contract Covid-19. If you decide to send your child back to school then this will be your informed choice. We, as a school, will not be responsible or liable for any illness contracted as a result of a child being sent back to school. By deciding to send your child back to school during this time you are accepting of this fact but please know that we will do all we can for children and staff attending school, during these times.

Return to School- Uniforms

It is recognised that for many children their school uniforms may no longer fit. From the 8th June 2020, please can all children wear their sports kit and trainers to school. To avoid spreading coronavirus, the Centres for Disease Control and Protection and World Health Organisation recommends changing out of "outdoor" clothing as soon as children enter their homes and advises that you immediately put them in the laundry. Therefore, following the Government's recommendations, all clothing worn at school should be freshly laundered each day to minimise the risk of cross contamination.

School Lunch

Please can all children attending school bring a packed school lunch. All parents/ carers who receive Edenred Free School Meal vouchers will be able to purchase foods for their children's packed lunches so that all children can bring their packed lunches into school along with two filled water bottles and two healthy snacks. Can all children also bring sun-cream for their own personal use and a sunhat. All being well, we hope that school meals will be available but with a more limited menu from the beginning of July 2020.

First Aid Provision

Staff members providing First Aid will wear PPE, including a plastic apron, gloves, mask and visor for additional protection for both the child and the adult.

PPE

The Government have stated that PPE is not required in education settings. However, I have provided staff with a choice to wear PPE if they wish.

Actions taken if any child presents with symptoms

We would ask that each morning parents/ carers check the temperature of their child and if he/ she has a temperature of above 38°C then parents/ carers are advised to keep their child at home and ring us to let us know. If any child is displaying any of the symptoms of COVID 19 (persistent cough, increase in temperature, loss of taste or smell), then we will contact you right away. The Government has stated that all children 5 years and over can now be tested for Covid-19 and test centres have been set up locally (see, <https://www.nhs.uk/contact-us/get-help-with-asking-for-a-coronavirus-test/>).

In the event of a positive diagnosis of COVID 19, Local Authority and Government guidelines will be followed. We will inform all families of children in that 'bubble' and will advise them all to self-isolate for 14 days. During this time school will be closed and professionally deep cleaned.

Please can we ask that mobile phones are not to be brought into school at all (this is to reduce contamination risks due to the way that they are stored and collected in).

We will ask all parents/ carers and children to sign a Covid 19 Home School Agreement in advance of them attending school. In order to keep everyone safe, we will need children to follow instructions and make good behaviour choices. If your child shows that they are purposely breaking the social distancing rule, leaving the designated space without prior agreement or purposely putting other children at risk then we will contact you to collect them from school where they can continue with online education learning provision.

These measures will mean that the school will feel different, however we have found, having had vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers that the children are adapting to these measures. Although the school routines feel a little peculiar, the staff continue to be positive and reassuring in these challenging times.

Return to School Day Structure: Week commencing 01.06.2020 Childcare provision

Vulnerable children and children of keyworkers will continue to follow the online education provision with childcare provided by staff on site.

Return to School Day Structure: Week commencing: 08.06.2020

Group	Start of day	Curriculum	Toilets	Break	Lunch	Finish
Keyworker & EHCP childcare group	8.10 via the main entrance	Pupils complete Home Learning and follow live lessons on timetable each day in CHIP	Use outdoor toilets only	10.30 -10.50 Courts	1-1.15 – lunch in CHIP 1.15-1.45 Play outside on Courts	3.30 exit through main entrance
Room 12 year 6 'bubble' (some pupils from 6CC)	8.20 via year 5 door	Pupils will be continuing to follow a timetable of core and foundation subjects as well as having opportunities to be creative and to reflect on their experiences at this time in order to support their emotional well-being. We will also be reading Kensuke's Kingdom – an absolutely superb book by Michael Morpurgo.	Use year 5 toilets only	10.20-10.40 Main Field	1-1.10 – lunch in Room 12 1.10-1.35 play outside on main field	3.15 exit through Year 5 door
Room 14 year 6 'bubble' (some pupils from 6CW)	8.30 via main entrance		Use year 7 toilets only	10.40-11 Main Field	Lunch in Room 14 1.35-2 play outside on main field	3.20 exit through main entrance
Art Room year 6 'bubble' (some pupils from 6CC & 6CW)	8.40 via year 5 door	Core skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwriting • Spelling • Tables • Four operations • Reading skills • Kensuke's Kingdom – read together • Creative and reflective activities 	Use former staff toilets next to Art Room only	10.35-10.55 Grassed area outside the Art Room	1-1.20 – lunch in Art Room 1.20-1.45 – play on grassed area outside the Art Room	3.25 exit through Year 5 door
CCN Base	8.50 via CCN side door	Bespoke to pupils in CCN Base	Use toilets on CCN Base corridor only	10-10.20 Courts	Lunch in CCN Base 12.45-1.10 – play outside on courts	3.10 exit through CCN Base side door

For children in all other year groups, virtual education provision will continue to be provided by a Home Led Teaching Team, following a structured timetable and delivery of 'live' lessons. I've been incredibly proud of my team as very few schools in Dorset are offering any live lessons daily to support children's learning at home. We know that our children have benefited greatly from this opportunity. As another exciting development, I have also arranged for our children to access Careers Courses via the Be Ready Platform and all children have been set a course to complete over half term. Please can I thank all parents/ carers who have completed the short, online questionnaire via Survey Monkey to evaluate our online education provision. If you have not already done so, please can you take a few minutes to help us as your feedback is really important to us- see, <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XBV2MRP>.

Following your recent confirmation of your child's return to school, please can you inform us if there is any change in circumstances as to whether your child will or will not be returning to school. I understand that some families have to shield and that even with all the measures I have listed, the risk may still be too high. Please be assured that I understand fully and will support the decisions you make that are right for your family at this time.

For the parents/ carers of children in Year 8, which is the transition year of middle schools, please be assured of my absolute commitment to bring our children back so they have an opportunity to finish their middle school education. My heart goes out to all children during this time but they will be our Generation C – not C for coronavirus or Covid-19 but C for Courage, C for Creativity, C for Compassion, C for Chaos Navigation, C for Critical Thinking. Our children will change the future of UK education because they will dictate what is needed when their normal routines at school, as a result of lockdown, were not possible. We've tried to create that virtually, ensuring that our children still have a daily connection with staff at school, proactively continuing their education and progress, however, we know that there is no substitution for face-to-face interactive education.

A personalised letter will be sent to all parents/ carers of Year 6 children on Wednesday 3rd June 2020 with details about their child's allocated 'bubble' from the 8th June 2020. But for now, I hope that you all have a lovely time with your family over half term. Please keep safe and take care.

Best wishes and thanks again for your wonderful support,

Dr Craddock and all the staff at West Moors Middle School



