



Church of the Ascension C.E. Primary School

26th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you to set out the arrangements we have made to open the school from Tuesday 2nd June.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children from 23rd March. I know that this period has been challenging for many families.

I am pleased to let you know that, further to the government's announcement that schools will open from 1st June (subject to scientific advice), we are working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back all children. We will open to more children only if the government confirms that their five key tests justify taking this step and we are able to accommodate them whilst following government guidelines.

As you may be aware, we have remained open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children since 23rd March and have been operating with smaller group sizes and additional hygiene and infection control measures. We will remain open for them until wider opening is confirmed.

From the week beginning 1st June, schools will welcome back children in Reception, Y1 and Y6, if the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time. For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Some categories of children with specific serious health conditions should not attend school. If you are unsure whether your child should attend the setting due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.

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- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting other than their lunchbox and water bottle. We recommend that wherever possible children leave their coat at home.

What can parents and carers do to help?

1. If your child, or someone in their household has coronavirus symptoms and they should not come to the setting.
2. If your child develops coronavirus like symptoms they will need to be immediately collected from school. We will isolate the child from the rest of their bubble in order to reduce their contact with others.
3. Please provide reassurance to your child that we will be looking to establish new routines and that they will soon become used to this. Although your child may not have his / her normal teacher, they will be with an adult who they are familiar with.

Once schools open to more children, all children who are attending will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. Further guidance is available about [getting tested](#).

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 2nd June. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know. If your child is in Y2-Y5, please persevere with the home schooling tasks which will continue to be available each week on the website.

Yours sincerely,



Head Teacher