

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, during the period of lockdown schools have been open only to the children of key workers and vulnerable children. Staff and pupils at our academy have managed this extremely well and throughout this period we have also been supporting the education of children at home.

On 10th May, the Prime Minister announced plans for the partial lifting of lockdown measures. Schools have been asked by the government to prepare for the time when it is possible to have wider opening.

The government has announced that the earliest that wider opening would start would be Monday 1st June. The particular year groups to which the wider opening would apply if the necessary conditions are met are nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils in primary schools and Year 10 and Year 12 in secondaries.

This letter outlines the arrangements we are putting in place when schools do open more widely. We have followed government advice throughout all of our planning for wider opening, particularly in respect of health and safety of children and staff.

We feel as an academy that our planning and preparations are progressing well to manage wider opening.

The staff team have been working hard to organise the classroom spaces to ensure that we can, as far as is possible within a school, adhere to the social distancing rules of 2 metres. This has been a complicated logistical task - in order for us to work to keep your child/ren safe we need to know as certainly as we can how many children will be returning at the point where the academy opens more widely. Should your circumstances change, please contact us to let us know.

In order to adhere to the Government's guidance with regard to social distancing we must organise our children into much smaller group sizes and this poses logistical problems for us in terms of trying to accommodate all children in Reception, Year 1 and 6 alongside the children of key workers and vulnerable children who will also continue to attend school. At the present time, we do not anticipate that we will be able to accommodate Year 6 students from as early as Monday 1 June. Government's guidance in circumstances such as these require us to prioritise younger children - those in

Reception and Year 1.

We continue to develop and refine our plans for the wider opening of schools and will keep the situation with Year 6 under review.

Please read the following information which all staff, parents and children who, in the interests of safety, must adhere to:

Key Information for All

1. School uniform must be worn with the exception of ties and blazers and washed at the end of each day.
2. No book bags, PE kits or items from home brought into school.
3. 1 parent only to drop off and pick up.
4. Walk to school where at all possible.
5. Try to avoid bringing siblings to school at drop off and pick up times, if at all possible.
6. No face masks to be worn in school.
7. All children must bring a labelled, pre-filled water bottle to school.
8. We will be operating a one-way system for arrivals and collections. Reception parents and children are asked to use the gate at the far end of the car park for arrivals and then drop off at the Reception entrance / Library door. Parents should then exit by the main barrier. All other parents and children are to use the normal pathway, drop off at the main gate and follow the exit markings on the floor.
9. Please note that we are unable to run the minibus and cannot provide breakfast or after school club at this present time.

Year Group	Arrival Time	Collection Time	Arrival / Collection Point
Reception	9:15am	2:30pm	Reception Entrance (by the Library)
Year 1	9:00am	3:00pm	Main Gate
Key Workers / Vulnerable Children	8:45am - 3:15pm (Shift / rota details to be shared with the office)		Main Gate

Social Distancing

The government have stated the following:

“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.”

It is very important that we are transparent about the social distancing measures we can realistically undertake. All playtimes and lunchtimes are staggered so that children do not mix with anyone that is not in their group.

Reception children will find socially distancing from each other and the adults in the classroom extremely difficult. However, staff will endeavour to encourage the children to social distance and remind them about social distancing throughout the day.

Year 1 children will have the desks spaced as far apart as possible in the classroom and will have their own individual work space on an individual desk. We believe that we can teach the Year 1 children a certain degree of social distancing measures.

PLEASE NOTE

- All adults in school WILL be adhering to social distancing measures with other adults.
- Adults from each of the groups in school will not mix with each other.
- No other additional adults will be involved with the class group unless there is a medical emergency.
- The children will only be with the adults in their group. This will be maintained throughout the school day.

Cleaning & Hygiene

- A detailed risk assessment has been undertaken in liaison with the Trust.
- The classroom areas and bathrooms used by the children have had a ‘deep clean’ since the closure in March.
- All soft furnishings have been removed from the classrooms.
- Toys and equipment that cannot be cleaned or put through the dishwasher at the end of every day, will not be used. E.g. Pirate Ship, Helicopter, Monkey Bars, Tank, Adventure playground,



wooden blocks, train track etc.

- All children will have their own stationery items. However, we cannot guarantee that children will not share other toys/resources.
- Cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails and tabletops.
- The teaching staff will clean toys/resources at the end of the day, using hot soapy water or disinfectant spray or the dishwasher.
- The classrooms and bathrooms will have a deep clean at the end of each day.
- Staff will be using the 'Catch It. Bin It. Kill It.' motto. Children will be taught how to use the tissues and bin them, then wash their hands with warm soapy water and hand sanitiser. Bins will be emptied throughout the day.
- Children will be supervised washing their hands with warm soapy water and/or hand sanitiser on entry to the building, after using the toilet, coughing, sneezing and before eating.
- Adults will encourage the children not to touch their faces with their hands.
- Children will not be allowed to bring anything they have made at school home with them.
- Children will not be able to bring reading books home with them.
- Staff will not wear PPE unless dealing with first aid or intimate care.

Alongside this letter is a detailed home-school agreement which must be adhered to and agreed to by all parents and carers if their child is to attend Bovington Academy from Monday 1st June 2020. Please follow the link to the Home School Agreement Google Form and complete prior to your child returning.

<https://forms.gle/omchbTFNxRNWBjYe6>

In addition to this, we have attached our revised behaviour policy for your reference.

We must emphasise that at the moment we are preparing for the possibility of wider opening on 1st June. However, the Government is due to review this position on Thursday 28th May. We expect an announcement confirming the date of wider opening following this review. We will write to you on Friday 29th May to confirm or modify our plans for wider opening.

Many thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Kindest regards

Mrs V Maslin & Mr N George
Co Acting Principals