



Leigh and Bransford Primary School

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Thursday, 21 May 2020

Dear Parents,

Re-opening plan

You will be aware that the government has asked all primary schools to begin to welcome back children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June. **We are waiting to hear the government's final decision about the potential for a safe re-opening which will be announced on 29th May.** The government has stated that *'the aim of this phased return is to get children back into education because it is the best place for them to learn and because it is important for children's wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers and teachers. This decision has been based on the latest scientific advice, and by returning pupils gradually, schools can initially reduce the numbers of children in classrooms and put protective measures in place to reduce risks'*.

Therefore, at Leigh and Bransford we have worked carefully on a plan which follows the government guidelines and our local authority advice to enable us to deliver a phased return to school in the safest way possible, focusing on measures we can put into place to help limit the risk of the virus spreading within our school community. As I'm sure you'll appreciate, and as with many matters in our lives, risk cannot be totally eliminated.

Above all, we want to reassure you that the safety and wellbeing of all of our pupils, parents and staff will remain our main priority throughout the phased reopening of our school and of course beyond.

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. We have therefore carried out a risk assessment and have written a return to school plan which aims to reduce contact between people as much as possible and to reduce transmission risk by ensuring that children and staff only mix in small consistent groups. These groups will not interact with other groups in school.

In order to reduce transmission risks, we are only able to accommodate a reduced number of children in each classroom. We are starting with 8 pupils per class but will keep the number under review and will update you of any proposed changes. We will need at least 4 classrooms to accommodate the children of our key workers. This group of children has been prioritised by the government for full time school places. We will try to group the

children of critical workers into year groups as much as possible in order that they can work with their peers. Siblings will however stay together in order to protect the integrity of the groups to reduce the risk of transmission.

As you already know, if all of our reception pupils take up their places then we will not be able to offer places to anyone else. If however there is any spare capacity we will look to fill that with a group that would satisfy the government's requirement to cater for a whole year group. I believe that some parents have suggested the potential for attendance by rotas or on a part time basis so more children can return to at least some schooling. However, the government advises against rotas and part-time provision so these options cannot be implemented. As soon as we get a better idea of take up of places we will let you know if there is spare capacity to be filled.

To ensure a safe re-opening we will be taking the actions and measures below. Please note that this is based on the assumption that all capacity is taken by reception pupils. The principles displayed here would be used if another year group (1 or 6) were to be returning.

Groupings

- Reception staff will ensure friendship groups are taken into account when choosing to split class groups.
- Where possible a familiar adult will be part of the staff team in each group.
- Familiar resources from the child's own classroom will be allocated to each classroom.
- Mr Powney will plan the curriculum for all Reception groups to ensure consistency.
- Activities will be planned to support your child's transition back to school.

Reduced contact on the school site

- There will be a reduced number of children in each class group to allow us to maintain social distancing measures as much as possible. These children will work in separate classrooms with a teacher and a teaching assistant.
- All groups of children will have staggered play times and lunchtimes to ensure that the groups do not mix.
- A staggered start and end time to the school day. There will be no morning or after school club available.
- Both entrances to school will be used in a staggered way.
- Only one parent will be allowed to drop off and collect children and we will ask parents to maintain a social distance of 2 metres at all times. Please spread out on to the field or playgrounds whilst you are waiting to pick up.
- Children will be dropped off and collected from the classroom door where their child will be based. We respectfully ask parents to ensure a safe distance of 2 metres from the external classroom door. Details of children's classrooms will be shared once we have compiled our groups.

Lunches, uniform and equipment in school

- All children will need to bring one small bag to school containing a packed lunch (if not provided by Black Pepper) and a water bottle. Key workers' children will also need to bring in any work that has been set by their teacher.
- Children must not bring in any toys or other items into school.

- Children will be allocated their own work station which they will use each day. Desks will be well spaced. Pupils will have their own resources which only they use.
- Cloakrooms will not be used in order to reduce contact in the corridors. Children will put their bags underneath their own workstation or in a designated area of the classroom.
- Children to come to school wearing PE kits or suitable clothing and shoes for outside activities. We will not be changing during the day. Please could children wear a clean set of clothes to school each day.
- Black Pepper will provide packed lunches for children in Reception and any critical worker children in Year 1 and 2, and any FSM children. Hot dinners will not be provided. Parents can also pay for packed lunches for children in other year groups. Lunches will be eaten in class groupings. Please either order packed lunches through Black Pepper online in the normal way for the days your child attends school or provide your own.
- Soft toys and soft furnishings in school have been removed.
- Play equipment in Reception will be cleaned daily.
- The large play equipment on the playground will be out of use.
- Computers and iPads will be sanitised between users.

Hygiene and Cleaning

- Children will be asked to wash their hands for 20 seconds on arrival at school, before eating, after sneezing or coughing, and regularly throughout the day. Younger children will be supervised.
- The school has purchased hand sanitising stations, cleaning kits and PPE for all classrooms.
- Tissues will be provided in all classrooms and lidded bins emptied regularly throughout the day.
- All indoor spaces will be well ventilated.
- School staff will use antibacterial spray to clean key areas throughout the day.
- Our cleaning teams will ensure a deep clean of the school each day.

Illness in school

- If a child displays any symptoms of Covid-19 in school, parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child. Children will be isolated but supported by an adult until collected.
- We will contact all the members of that class to let them know that there are Covid-19 symptoms in the group.
- Children or families showing symptoms must self-isolate for 7 days and members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days.
- Children are now eligible to be tested for Covid-19 but accessing a test will be the responsibility of the parent/carer.
- If a child tests positive, all staff and children from that child's group in school must self-isolate for 14 days and access a test as appropriate remembering that testing is normally most accurate within the first 5 days of symptoms showing and symptoms normally take up to 14 days to show. If any of these scenarios occur we will inform all parents with children in the group.

- If a test result is negative, then the child may return to school and the household can end period of isolation.

The Curriculum and Online Learning for children not in school

- Children in school may not be working with their usual class teacher or in their usual classroom. We will focus on completing home learning activities set by the class teacher which include Maths and English, but also place a high priority on children's personal, social and emotional well-being. **This will not be "normal school" by any stretch of the imagination.**
- We have devised a timetable to make the most of our outdoor learning environment whilst also keeping groups separate.
- We will place a high priority on transitions preparing our Reception children for Year 1.
- All school staff will be in school teaching groups during the school day. However, we know that that the majority of our children will still be completing home learning. Teachers will provide a weekly plan of online learning for their particular year group. This will be available by the Monday morning of each week. Teachers will still be available to answer dojo messages from parents, but there may be a delay in responding due to full time teaching commitments during the school day.

I do hope this plan will help to reassure you in advance of your child/ren's return to school. Please do contact the school office or your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience and support during these unprecedented times. We have been really moved by your understanding and the positive messages that have been received over the past few weeks and we will continue to work together to support our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Bill
Headteacher

Mr J Slattery
Chair of Governors