



Leigh and Bransford Primary School

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Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Wider opening from 1st June

As you will no doubt have seen announced yesterday the government have given the green light for schools to open more widely from next Monday 1st June. We have been planning this carefully and are in the position to be able to extend opening to **Reception pupils** whose parents have indicated they would like a place. We will be in contact with you and **existing keyworker** parents a little bit later today with specific details about classrooms, drop off and pick up arrangements. Please read these carefully and adhere to the health and safety arrangements that we have put in place.

Unfortunately at this time we do not have capacity for any other additional pupils although this may change as uptake numbers crystallise and/or guidance changes.

We understand that this leaves many of you relying on home learning which we will continue to deliver. You may be pleased to hear that we are currently working on a system that should make it a lot easier for you to access and track the learning on offer. I will update you about this next week.

I am aware that there are many questions about this process and in order to answer these the governors and I have put this list together which we hope is informative:

1. Why is the school only looking to re-open to classes R, 1 & 6?

National government guidance has dictated that these three classes should be the first to re-open. Should this limited re-opening prove to be successful and the virus transmission remains in decline it is anticipated that the government will give authority to consider other class years returning to school although the timeframe for this is undetermined.

2. Why is the school only having 8 pupils per class?

The national government indicated that up to 15 pupils could return per class. However, the number per class is dependent on an individual school's ability to implement other parts of the guidance such as social distancing during lessons, lunchtimes, play times and general movement around the classroom/school. Our local authority (Worcestershire County Council) is responsible for the provision of education in the county and has issued extensive guidance for the reopening of

schools and this guidance contains locally carried out research into classroom sizes and the number of pupils a class can accommodate whilst social distancing. It is this guidance that indicated between 5 and 12 pupils per class. When considering the sizes of our classroom spaces we consider 8 per class is appropriate; this number should be able to increase dependent on decline of virus transmission and success of the school reopening but a timeframe cannot be given.

3. Why can't the school devise a plan for part school days so more pupils can at least attend on a rota basis?

One of the safety measures of the reopening is that only one set of pupils will use one specific classroom, in this manner the physical classroom and the pupils/teachers become an isolation bubble. If a rota for part-time attendance is used it would certainly increase the potential for more children to get some time at school but it would also mean this bubble would be breached. At this time it is considered necessary to maintain this classroom bubble for the safety of pupils, teachers and their families. As indicated in other areas this may change as we progress through the phases of success reopening. This process also follows national guidance.

4. Why is Year R considered a priority over other classes, especially year 6 who should be getting ready to transition to their next school?

National government mandated the classes to come back to school and in its guidance to all schools indicated that the priority amongst these classes in a primary school is youngest to oldest pupils.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools#creating-and-staffing-your-temporary-teaching-groups>

5. How can children keep a social distance of 2 metres at all times?

We would use the words 'as far as is reasonably practicable' in recognition that 2 metres social distancing will not always be possible nor adhered to but the teaching staff will do all they can to ensure it is adhered to as much as possible. The classroom set-ups and other measures are designed to allow this distancing but we recognise that there will be occasions when children may forget or when a safety issue overrides the need for social distancing.

6. Who has been involved in devising the re-opening plan?

The Headteacher has led the design of the re-opening but he has been advised by national and local guidance and has also received assistance from the teaching staff and governors. It has been a real team effort and although our measures are as comprehensive as we can reasonably make them we are in the full knowledge that 100% safety is impossible to achieve; this being no different to many other aspects of our lives. There are many people that would consider the journey to and from school still being the most dangerous part of the school day.

7. Pupil places at school have been very restricted due to a significant growth in 'critical worker' children.

Our list of qualifying key workers has always been quite large but uptake was initially limited, as most key workers had child care at home and so didn't need the school service. However as more and more people have returned to work, home based child care has disappeared and uptake has increased at school. This leaves us with a situation where we need at least four classrooms to accommodate them.

8. Will there be a teacher and TA in each of the classes?

There will always be appropriate supervision for all pupils which will include teachers and teaching assistants. Our plan is to ensure the same teachers and teaching assistants stay with a set of pupils to create that bubble as previously mentioned. There is of course the possibility that an alternative teacher or teaching assistant may be used in a class for safety or sickness reasons but this should be limited to when absolutely necessary.

9. Why do the children need clean laundered clothes for each new day of school?

I hope you appreciate that we are attempting to put in the maximum safety measures possible for the benefit of pupils, teaching staff and families even if the potential for the virus spread is very minimal. This is one of those measures - using freshly laundered clothes ensures that if clothes can transmit the virus this doesn't happen between home and school. All indications are that the chances of clothes to human transmission is limited but nevertheless this is a relatively simple measure so we believe it to be appropriate. Please note pupils are to wear PE kit or clothes suitable for outdoor learning.

10. Does the school have appropriate PPE for teachers if it is necessary?

When following guidance we anticipate very limited necessity for PPE for teaching staff but as an added precaution we have ordered appropriate masks, visors, gloves and gowns should the need arise.

11. Does the school have adequate washing/sanitising supplies and facilities?

We believe so yes. We have hand sanitisers placed throughout the school and will be encouraging their use on a regular basis. We will also be encouraging regular hand washing as per guidance that we believe is now almost universally understood.

12. Has the school's cleaning regime changed to recognise the challenge of COVID?

Yes, each classroom will receive a deep clean every evening which will mean all surfaces, including door handles and other regularly handled/touched items are thoroughly cleaned. Cleaning will also take place throughout the day and each class has its own cleaning kit which will be safely stored away from pupils.

13. How do I speak to my child's teacher should I need to?

If you have routine matter to discuss please use the dojo facility. Should there be an urgent need to speak to a teacher the school office will be staffed during school hours and can receive phone calls. Should the teacher/parent believe, in exceptional circumstances, a face-to-face meeting is appropriate this may be

arranged but only by prior appointment and with all social distancing measures in place.

14. What is happening regarding the nationally set SATs and the locally assessed SATs/assessments?

The government has cancelled all SATs tests and teachers will be asked to use their knowledge of a pupil to allocate a teacher assessment level.

15. The school requires some new teachers for next September - can you recruit during the COVID period?

Recruitment progresses as normal but using virtual medium to perform interviews and complete tasks. We have a new teacher for class 4 and a new part-time teacher (to cover the other half of Mrs Davies' role) for class 1 ready for next September.

16. How was the risk assessment for the re-opening of the school devised?

The risk assessment was formulated over a number of weeks; it was known from when the school ceased operating normally that the time would come for a phased re-opening so it has been work in progress for a while. However, as time progressed various sets of guidance have been issued which have informed those contributing to the document including teaching staff, governors and our schools advisor. The risk assessment is a document that identifies all the risks that can be reasonably predicted and then indicates the measures to mitigate those risks. It is designed to be reasonable and pragmatic in its approach and application, it is not designed to identify every eventuality no matter how remote the possibility of that eventuality occurring.

As ever I will keep you informed of any changes and developments as they arise. I thank you for your continued patience and support and look forward to our gradual journey back to a more normal school life.

Best wishes,

Mr S Bill
Headteacher