



ASQUITH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY
Asquith Street Mansfield Notts NG18 3DG

☎ 01623 454969

Friday 22nd May 2020

Whole School Update: Plans for returning to school

Dear Parents/Carers

This letter is an update on the current situation regarding a possible return to school from 1st June for certain year groups – Y6, Y1, Reception and Nursery.

Thank you to all those who responded to our survey for children in the identified year groups – the number of responses was excellent and has really helped us to plan a way forward. June 1st has been given as a provisional date by the government – our phased return will be FROM June 1st. Not all the children in the priority year groups will be able to come back to school on this day, and we will not open at all unless we are sure that all measures have been implemented for us to provide teaching and learning that has reduced the risks for our whole school community.

In order to ensure that the new routines and systems that we will have to have in place are followed consistently the governing body has agreed that any return to school, if the government confirms a return to school, should be phased. The governing body have agreed the following dates for children to be able to return to school; these plans are dependent on regular reviews, including the number of staff and classrooms available, and so could change;

W/c June 1st	School open for key Worker and Vulnerable children Staff return to school
W/c June 8th	Children in Y6 able to return to school
W/c June 15th	Children in Y1 able to return to school
W/c June 22nd	Children in Reception able to return to school
W/c June 29th	Children in Nursery able to return to school

Parents of children in these groups will receive a survey before children can come back into school asking them to say if their child will be returning or not. Parents have the choice to send their children back or keep them at home. There will be no fines issued for non-attendance. Home learning packs and activities will continue for all children at Asquith regardless of which year group they are in. FSM vouchers would continue although we are still waiting to hear if they would continue if a child returned to school.

Children would not be returning to school as they remember it, the layout of teaching spaces, the work and the expectations will be very different and will include;

- Children working in smaller groups with a maximum of 15 children in a group, they will be taught by a teacher where possible. It is unlikely that children would return to their own teacher, or be in their own classroom.
- Children will NOT be able to mix with children who are not in their group.

- There will be staggered starts and ends to the day to ensure safe school drop offs and collections. No parents/carers will be allowed onto the school site.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered so that there is no mixing of groups.
- Children will have equipment outside but will have to play on their own.
- If there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus, all of the children in that group will be told to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Children will be sat separately in classrooms with their own individual equipment. They will only leave the classroom for outdoor sessions or to go to the toilet.
- Classrooms will only contain the necessary furniture and basic resources that can be cleaned easily.
- Lunches will be eaten in the classroom. Only sandwich meals will be provided by the kitchen.
- PPE (personal Protective equipment) is NOT recommended for use in schools by staff and children other than when caring intimately for a child, or supervising a child when they are waiting to be collected if they have shown symptoms and are being isolated from the rest of their group.

It has been made clear that primary aged children cannot be expected to social distance and keep 2 metres apart from each other and staff, however we would be encouraging and enabling children to practice safe distancing as much as possible.

There is no guarantee that we will be able to prevent the spread of infection but we will be putting measures in place to try and reduce the risk such as good hygiene, minimising contact and cleaning routines.

We will continue to provide care for the children of key workers and vulnerable children as we have since the start of lockdown. The way this is organised will change but parents of children in this provision will receive additional information. There will be no changes to the timings of this provision.

Parents of children in Y6, Y1, Reception and Nursery will receive the survey link via an app message in the next couple of weeks – please make sure you complete it by the stated date.

It has been a very unusual half term for us all. I just want to say thank you for the amazing job that you are doing as parents and carers – it is never an easy job and the situation we are in has brought added stress into our lives. I am so proud of this community and the hard work and effort you have put into support your children. As a staff we have loved seeing the work, the pictures and the comments from you and your children. It is half term next week so do have a break if you can!

We look forward to seeing you all on 'pick up' day on June 1st, meanwhile, follow the guidance and stay safe.

Clare Harding