

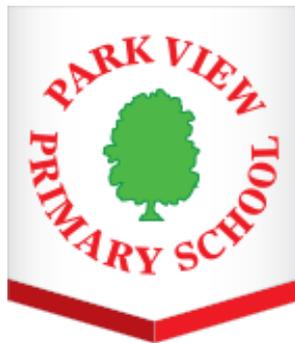
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Learning and Growing Together

1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to provide you with an update on our plans for a wider re-opening of our school.

There has been much thought and contemplation since the government announced a wider re-opening of schools to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 with plans, preparations, consultations and risk assessments drafted and then paused following the subsequent advice from the Local Authority to all Bury schools that it was still not safe to open.

As a school, we have continued to hold discussions with the Local Authority. We have engaged with unions, held dialogue with our local cluster of schools, conversed with our staff and held several Senior Leadership Team consultations with Mr Rose, in his capacity as Chair of Governors. Guidance from the Government and Department for Education has been issued daily too with our plans reviewed and reflected upon in the light of this. It has been necessary for us to demonstrate a high level of agility during the last few weeks in order to be responsive to what has appeared to be an ever-evolving landscape.

Our primary focus is the health, welfare and wellbeing of all our children, staff and wider school community. To ensure this, it is of paramount importance that we hold sufficient capacity to promote safer distancing and minimise risk. We have strongly considered our next steps as a school in light of the latest guidance and intelligence available to us and through our interactions and liaison with our Health and Safety Consultant. The decisions made are based on the working knowledge of our school community, the needs of our children and staff and our school building. It has also been driven by the current situation and in light of the government findings that the five key tests have now been met.

The government advice was to start the return to school from June 1st for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. It is acknowledged there has to be flexibility with this given how individual schools may be able to respond in consideration of their unique circumstances. We also need to continue to provide support for those children we have been caring for each day over the last eleven weeks – children of key workers whilst their parents are at work and our most vulnerable children. At Park View, should all children in the specified year groups return at once, it would equate to approximately 220 children.

Given this, we are planning to take our first steps by initially inviting children from **Year 6** for two days a week. This would either be a Monday and Tuesday or a Thursday and Friday depending on the group your child is allocated. **This will commence on Monday 15th June.** Children will be taught in groups of up to ten with one teacher and teaching assistant across several rooms. This would also mean we can seat children with an appropriate distance between each other for the majority of their learning. Children not in school will continue to be provided with home learning.

Our aspiration is that each week a new cohort from the Government's targeted year groups will be re-introduced. This will initially be on a part time basis to ensure operational feasibility as we seek to phase in all our children over time and gradually broaden the scope from a part-time to full-time return in a more strategic, manageable and prudent way.

It is clear that the school day is going to look very different in the first instance. It is important that we all are clear about this as for some children this will be disappointing as they will be hoping to return to school as they knew it. Unfortunately, it will not look or feel the same. We will however, endeavour to make the day pleasant, to continue to inject our Park View ethos and values into the day and provide enjoyable learning activities.

Children in school will remain in an assigned group with assigned members of staff throughout the day. They will have staggered access to outdoor space. We will ensure there is supervised, regular hand washing and hand sanitisation. Furniture will be cleaned at mid-day, at the end of the day and a deeper clean will be implemented on Wednesday as the second group of children prepare to attend. We will provide all children with individual work packs so they are not sharing stationery. There will be a one-way system in school and children will only have breaks with children in their assigned groups.

There will be a slight staggering of start and finish times and we will use more entry and exit points. We will be asking parents not to enter the school building but to telephone or email any school messages and to ensure distancing from other families when dropping off and picking up children. We will be asking children to return in their school uniform and kindly request that parents wash uniforms at the end of the day before returning the next day. Children will also eat their lunch in their assigned rooms.

These measures have been carefully considered, however I am sure you can appreciate that they are not infallible. People find social distancing very challenging and this is even more so for our younger children. It would not be realistic to say that children will not come into contact with other children however, they will stay within their assigned small groups with assigned adults. We will do our best! We do ask that school families adhere to the Government guidance outside of the school day so that we can be assured that we are all doing all we can to implement the measures outlined for our safety and to protect the children and staff as they come to school.

During the partial closure, we have been able to provide wrap around care for children whose parents are key workers. We are able to continue this provision. Unfortunately, at this current time we will not be able to reinstate our Out of School Club. We will advise you when we are able to do so.

This is an incredibly difficult situation and we appreciate there is much to consider. We also appreciate that this initial part-time attendance is not ideal, however it is felt that it would be wise to manage this one step at a time and to continually review our situation and respond to national advice as it happens. Children may find this new way of learning very challenging so a phased, graduated response will support children emotionally with this transition. The government guidance is that siblings outside of the specified year groups cannot attend at this time which we also appreciate presents difficulties.

At this time, could we please ask all parents in Year 6 to email school and indicate if they require a place week commencing Monday 15th June for their child in order to effectively assist our planning. Once this information is received, we will send further guidance regarding the practicalities of the school day and confirm arrangements. Further communication will be sought from the parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 in due course.

We will continue to provide home learning and support for all our children, for those not able to attend school yet and for the days part-time pupils are not in attendance. This will feel different to previous weeks as we will need teachers to be teaching across the school day in order to facilitate the smaller groups. However, learning will be provided and teachers will check online platforms and emails as frequently as possible. We will be monitoring carefully, listening to advice, reviewing our situation and hopefully building on our initial steps until such time when all our children can return.

We would like nothing more than to welcome all our children back to school and to resume learning and social activity as we know it. We do hope that you are all keeping well and taking good care of yourselves as well as your children. May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience, understanding and continued support at this most challenging of times. You have been and continue to be in all our thoughts. Please do continue to take care and keep safe.

Kind regards,

David Stephens
Executive Headteacher

Emma Udall
Head of School

