

Hello to all of our children and families,

School has not been the same without you but during this time we gotten to know our school community so much better and we are proud of the strong ties we have formed.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare and home schooling.

As you may be aware, we have remained open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children since 20th March and have been operating with smaller group sizes and additional hygiene and infection control measures. It has been 9 weeks since we closed to all but the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children and every week we pray that we are coming closer to an end to this terrible pandemic.

You may have been watching the news and the prime ministers briefings and keeping up to date with the government's plans to reopen schools. The government is now encouraging all eligible children to attend and it is no longer necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home.

Firstly can I say that we are all missing the children at school but the decision has been to reopen schools gradually from the 1st June, and whilst we would love to have all of our children back only children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will return next week.

We have sent out a google forms request and teachers have called parents to ask of their intentions and we have based the reopening on the number of children who have committed. Please do not just turn up. Call the school office if you have queries about your child returning to school.

If you have said that your child will return to school next week, you will receive a letter explaining your child's staggered start and end times, along with a form for you to complete for school lunches. These will need to be booked in advance for the rest of the week to prevent waste and unnecessary costs.

Children will be able to bring their own lunch in a plastic container and a plastic water bottle with their name on so that it can be easily wiped clean. We are also asking that children do not bring items from home to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

We understand that children may have grown out of their uniforms during this time. If this is the case they should instead wear their school PE kit.

We are:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups (safety bubbles' with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.

- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.

The children will be in small groups, less than 12 with 2 adults and they will remain in their groups in the same room throughout the day and will not mix with other groups of children. Where possible we will keep the adults consistent but this will of course depend on staff availability and all arrangements are subject to change.

In order to fully prepare staff and the building for the new guidance we will be keeping our INSET day on 1st June as planned in our yearly schedule so the school will be closed to all children on Monday. The school will be closed, to all but children of Key workers, for essential childcare, every Wednesday afternoon until further notice for deep cleaning.

The Reception children will be returning to school on Tuesday 2nd June every morning Tues-Fri. The year 1, Key worker children and those attending school at the moment will also return on Tuesday but this information will be explained further in a letter going out today.

Year 6 children will return on Wednesday morning until 12pm and then full time, albeit on a shortened staggered day from Thursday 4th June. Our Nursery children will also return on Thursday from 8.45. All of this information will be followed up in the letter.

We must ask that if you have not shared your intention for your children to return to school we cannot accept them on the day. Please do not just turn up. Call the school and we will make arrangements for your child to be included in an appropriate bubble where we have the relevant staff available.

The government have released strict guidelines around parents bringing and collecting children from school.

- If your child is in year 6 and they can come to school on their own they should continue to do this
- Be prompt, start and end times have been staggered for the protection of children families and school staff
- Adhere to social distancing guidance at the school gate and around the school
- Do not attempt to enter the school unless in an emergency and only if accompanied by a member of staff
- Use the designated entrance and collection point for your child's bubble, this may not be your usual entrance
- As a family please follow the government 'Stay Alert' guidance so that children are not unnecessarily exposed to the virus.

Conclusion

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to begin to return to us from 2nd June. We are looking forward to welcoming your child[ren] back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our setting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Kind Regards

The StJJ Team