



*Ready, Respectful, and Resilient.*

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, I would like to say that I hope this letter finds you and your families safe, well and healthy. This has been, and continues to be, a difficult time for us all but I would like to thank you all for your support and kind words during this time.

### **Summer Term Reopening Plan**

I need to begin by stating that this plan has been devised in-line with current guidance and therefore is subject to change.

Based on the current guidance that we have received, we have worked hard to produce a plan that is workable, factors in our environment and space and most importantly ensures we can limit contact and open as safely as possible. As you know, the health and safety of your children and the staff is our number one priority. We would not be prepared to do anything that jeopardises this. As such, we will be welcoming the children back in a staggered and controlled manner.

**From Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, school will be reopening for the Reception children and we will look to bring Year 1 and Year 6 back into school later in the term, if it is safe to do so.**

For children of Key Workers, school will continue to be open from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June (in-line with government guidance).

Before I explain how this reopening will work for Reception children and key worker children, let me stress that if you have a child in either of these groups and you do not feel comfortable sending them back to school, we completely respect and understand your decision. The government and the Local Authority have also stated that parents will not be penalised for non-attendance at this time. Furthermore, rest assured that school will continue to provide home learning for your child if you decide at this stage that you want to keep them at home.

As for all other year groups, school will continue to provide home learning packs during this time and for Year 6 we will begin to include transition activities after the half term break.

## **Reception and Key Worker Parents**

I understand that many of you have questions about how this is going to work, how we will try to minimise risk and what school will look like when they return. I hope the information below answers your questions but if you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email me (head@lambley.notts.sch.uk).

### *When will the school be open for my child?*

As we are open for key workers throughout half term, we will use Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to ensure that each learning space is ready. We will ensure that the school has another deep clean during this time, that classrooms are prepared and provide staff training and briefings ahead of us reopening for Reception children. As such:

- School will reopen for Reception on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, school will be open for Reception every Monday to Thursday.
- School will be closed to Reception children on Fridays so we can do a deep clean.
- School will remain open for Key Worker children from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June (Monday to Friday)
- We will deep clean the Key worker rooms after school on Friday.
- We ask that Key worker parents continue to let us know which days you need your child to attend school (providing as much notice as possible please)

### *Will my child be in their class with their classmates?*

The government have directed schools to teach children in groups of no more than 15. Where possible, we will ensure groupings are even smaller than this number. The government have directed us that children must remain in the same group at all times. As such, these groups will not change. Therefore, your child will only have contact with the children in their group and the staff teaching them (unless there is an emergency, for example a fire when we would need to remove all children from the site as soon as possible).

Reception will be split into two groups (at this stage). One group will work with a teacher and a TA across Willow and Elm and the other group will work with a teacher and a TA in the hall. These large spaces will help as we try to social distance the children.

Key worker children will also be split into two groups (at this stage). One group will work with a teacher or TA in Beech and the other group will work with a teacher or TA in Oak.

I must stress that the classrooms will not look like the classrooms your child will remember. We have been told to remove unnecessary furniture and most toys from the setting. We will do our best to make the environment as welcoming as we can in these very difficult circumstances.

Furthermore, your child will also work from the same desk/area all day, every day and will use equipment specifically for them (please do not send your child in with any pencil cases or toys.)

### Will you be staggering the school day?

Yes. School will be staggering the start and end times each day. This will enable us to limit the number of children and parents arriving at the school at the same time.

Throughout the school day, we will also stagger breaks and lunchtimes; giving each group their own specific times.

More details of the staggered times will follow shortly.

### What will happen with lunchtimes? Can I send in a packed lunch?

To limit contact, children will eat their lunch in their classroom before having some time outside in the playground (again this break will be staggered for each group).

At this stage, I can say that school will provide lunch for the children but the current guidance explains that you can send in a packed lunch with your child, if you prefer.

### What are the cleaning arrangements in school?

School will be cleaned daily, including the key equipment that the children are using. We will check regularly throughout the day that there is sufficient hand gel/soap for the children and that key areas are clean.

On top of this daily clean, the school will undertake a deep clean every Friday.

### What are school doing about social distancing?

As you will have seen from the Corporate Director's letter yesterday, current guidance state that schools need 'to exercise some level of social distancing but does not require distancing of 2 metres.'

This said, school are doing all they can to keep a reasonable distance between the children and limit contact, but I must stress that I cannot guarantee that the children will always be 2m apart.

School will be taking the following steps to limit contact:

- Staggered start and end times

- Put markers outside school that are 2m apart as you queue to drop your child off.
- Children will enter school at a staggered rate and head straight to their class to wash their hands.
- Children will start their day at areas/desks that are 2m apart
- Staff will start every day with a daily briefing, reminding children about the expectations.
- Children will only be in contact with children and staff in their group.
- School will use staggered break times and lunch times

Whilst we will do everything we can to minimise contact between children, we cannot guarantee it. It is important to state that we cannot be as socially distanced as you are outside of school.

### I am a Key Worker with a child in the Reception class. Where will they work?

If you are a key worker and need school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday, they will become part of a Reception group and no longer work with the key worker children.

Unfortunately, if you are a key worker and need school on a Friday, then your child will have to stay with the key worker group all week. The government guidance is very clear that, at this time, we cannot mix groups of children. So, I cannot have a child in the Reception class Monday-Thursday and then re-integrate them into a Key Worker group on Friday. If this applies to you and you wish to discuss it further, please contact me.

### Do I have to send my Reception child back on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June?

No. I appreciate that this is a very difficult decision to make and you may feel you need more time or national reassurance before sending them back. We are happy to welcome Reception children back at a later date but stress that no child will be allowed to rejoin mid-week. If you decide at a later date, that you want to send them back, please contact the school and your child will be eligible to start from the following Monday. This will enable me to plan for them and ensure staffing and group ratios are correct. Furthermore, if you do not want to send them back for 4 days a week, that is also fine. Please let us know how many days and which days they will return.

As I have said, I appreciate that this is a very difficult decision and there is a lot of information here for Reception and Key worker parents to consider but I ask that you let school know whether you will be sending your child back **by Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**. If you have already responded and your answer has not changed, you do not need to contact school again.

We will also send a further letter next week, with your groupings, staggered start and end times and outline any changes to governmental guidance.

Thank you all for your support during this time.

Stay safe, Lee Christopher