

Great Barford Church of England Primary Academy

'Growing together through learning, friendship and worship'



Monday 25th May 2020

Dear All,

As you are aware, the government has issued guidance on the reopening of schools. It has stated that from the week commencing 1 June, they are asking us to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This is still subject to confirmation, as the scientific data, collected in the next week, may result in a change of start date. However, as a school we have been working hard on a recovery plan to enable us to follow the government's guidelines, and begin to bring our children back into school safely.

We are very aware of concerns and anxieties that parents may well have over this decision. We too have similar concerns and anxieties. As a Headteacher, I cannot and will not be able to state categorically that the plans we have put into place will completely guarantee your child's safety from Covid-19. This is simply not possible. We have, however, worked carefully on this plan to try to mitigate some of the risks that exist, as a result of schools reopening. The Board and I feel that this plan is the best way forward, within the guidelines that have been set for us. I am extremely grateful to, and proud of, my staff, who have all worked so hard over the past few months, and are still working to support home learning.

For now, I would like to share with you the practical information around our returning to school. Obviously, the information is subject to change, as government guidelines change in this fast moving situation. The potential start date of 1st June is not yet certain, and we will keep you up to date. Please be aware, however, that we have no advance information of any changes, and find out about changes at the same time as the general public.

Thank you so much for your support over the past few months. We do hope to see you soon, as soon as it is safe to do so.

With many thanks, take care,

Sarah Evans
Headteacher

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Who will be returning and how will classes return?

ALL PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO RISK LEVELS AND GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

School will initially be making a soft reopening to children in Year 6 and all key worker children.

- If your child is in Year N, Year R, Year 1 Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 there will be no change to the current provision, and Home Learning will continue to be the education offer for those year groups.
- We intend to introduce Years N, R and 1 gradually over the coming weeks. Details of this will follow, and we will give as much notice to parents and carers of the changes as possible.
- The government has stated that they would like to have all primary year groups return before the end of the Summer term. This may or may not be possible depending upon the level of risk.
- The government has issued guidelines that children should be in classes of no more than 15 and, where possible, that classrooms should be arranged to ensure children are seated 2m apart.

Before and After School Care Clubs

From 1st June we will not be able to offer before and after school care due to staffing capacity at this point in time. This will be reviewed as the situation changes.

Social Distancing

- We have arranged for children to be grouped in 8s with an adult – this may not be their usual class teacher. This will form their social “bubble”. It is difficult for children of this age to maintain 2m distancing, but separation into groups of 8 will help to mitigate this risk.

When will my child attend?

There will be 4 groups for each class which contain 8 children. Each group will be supported in a separate room by either a teacher or Teaching Assistant. All groups in the class will be overseen by the class teacher.

At this initial stage we will be asking the children to attend school on a part time basis so enough staff are available.

Children will attend school on Monday and Tuesday **or** Thursday and Friday.

Children will attend on fixed days each week to allow parents to plan their commitments more effectively.

The school will be closed on Wednesday to all children apart from the key worker and vulnerable support group. On Wednesdays and Fridays the school will be deep cleaned.

Following government guidelines, we intend to keep the same group of children together at all times, with the same teacher or support staff, if possible. This may not be possible, for example when a member of staff is unwell, but we will do this as much as we can.

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Children will stay in their designated room. It may not be their usual room.

- the children will have lessons and eat in their rooms
- they will not meet together in the hall
- they will play outside in their bubble group and not mix with other bubbles
- they will not move freely around the school during the day
- they will have specific entry and exit routes

Key Worker Groups

Children who are attending the key worker and vulnerable learner group will not be with their class. They will remain in the key worker bubbles to ensure that all bubbles can be maintained.

- YN children will be in one of the nursery classrooms;
- YR, Y1 and Y2 children will be taught in the ASC room;
- Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 children will be taught in the Year 5 classrooms.

Please drop Key Worker and Vulnerable Pupils off at the times in the chart below, at their designated entrances.

Year group	Children's entrance in morning	Parent to exit	Arrival at school	Children to exit/ Parents to pick up	Pick up at end of day
Y6 children	Main playground – wait on playground with teacher. Enter through Y3/Y4 door past the Science room.	Parent to leave at top of drive	8.45am – 9.00am *	Children exit through Y3/Y4 door onto main playground. Parents to meet at end of drive if not walking home by themselves.	3.00pm
Key worker group – YN	Through Nursery door	Parents to leave at Nursery door	8.30am - 8.45am *	Pick up from Nursery playground, exit across grass if dry; main gate if wet.	3.20pm
Key worker group – YR, Y1, Y2	Main playground - door to ASC	Parents to leave at ASC door		ASC door onto main playground. Please wait away from gate and door.	
Key worker group - Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Main playground – wait on playground with teacher. Enter through Y5/6 door.	Parents to leave at top of drive		Teacher will walk children to end of drive. Children handed to parent or walk home alone.	

***As more year groups are admitted, these times are subject to change.**

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Dropping off and Collecting Pupils

- There will be staggered start and end times.
- Groups of children will enter and leave through different doors.
- Please ensure that only one parent drops off/pick up children and that you remain 2m from staff.
- You will be given a 15-minute slot to arrive at school. It is important that you keep to the allocated slot.
- As soon as you drop off or pick up your child, please leave the school site.
- No parents will be admitted into the school building.
- If you need to talk to a teacher or a member of staff, please phone or e-mail to make an appointment.
- Please arrive on site just before your allocated time to pick up. There will be a system similar to supermarket queues, with markings on the floor.

Break Times and Lunch

- Breaks will be staggered.
- Pupils will play in designated outside spaces to remain in their social “bubble”.
- Children may have a hot school dinner or packed lunch and they will eat them in their own classrooms. No hot dinners until 8th June.
- Children will be reminded regularly about social distancing. However, we are aware that children may find this difficult to maintain.

Resources and Equipment

Resources

- We will be unable to share resources as we would normally do in the classroom. We will only use equipment that can be cleaned. For example, we will not be using equipment such as using sand, play dough or climbing equipment.
- We will not be sending reading books home for now. We want to ensure as little transmission between home and school.

Clothing

- All children, including Key worker/vulnerable groups will wear their school uniform. Y1 –Y6 will need their PE kit in a named PE bag.
- Children will need to come to school wearing **clean** uniform. However, if your child has grown out of any items, please don't go out and buy new for the last few weeks. Instead, please send them in something as similar as possible. All clothes need to be washed each day before wearing again
- We will be learning outside far more often than normal. Your child will be going outside even in poor weather.
- Your child **will need** to bring a named bag with a waterproof and sun hat. **Please put sun cream on your child each morning before school and if they can apply cream themselves give them some to remain in school. Please label everything.**

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Drinks

A named drinks bottle containing water to be brought daily and washed and filled at home. The bottle may be refilled during the day at school.

Lunch

Week beginning Monday 1st June

All children must bring a packed lunch in a named plastic bag each day, which will be disposed of after eating.

Monday 8th June onwards

- Hot school meal will be available. If your child brings their own packed lunch, we are asking that they do not bring a lunch bag. Please can you put their lunch in a named plastic bag, which will be disposed of after eating.
- A drink (or drinks) that will last all day.
- Hot school meals will be available and eaten in the classroom not the dining hall.

Toys, bags and other things from home.

- Please do not send your child with any other items from home, such as toys or book bags.

What will my child be learning?

- As your children will be attending part time, we will not be able to deliver the full National Curriculum. The government guidelines state that schools should decide on the most appropriate learning for the children.
- We will be focusing on the core elements, Maths and English, but also giving the children access to other elements of the curriculum. We will start to assess the children and begin to use this information to plan future learning.
- We will also be focusing on supporting their wellbeing. This has been a huge change for the children and school will be a very different place in the short to medium term.
- Children will access the Home Learning resources on the website on the days they do not attend school.

What safety measures will be in place?

Cleaning

We are implementing an increased cleaning and disinfecting routine within school.

1. Surfaces will be disinfected twice a day.
2. Classroom will have resources removed from them if they cannot be regularly cleaned and disinfected. Other resources will be disinfected regularly.
3. Children will have their own personal bag for disposing of tissues and pencil sharpening etc.

The School Grounds

- We will have a queuing system and social distancing procedures in place within the school grounds.
- This is to ensure one parent only can drop off and collect their children whilst maintaining social distancing.
- The school grounds will be set up with a walkway system. Parents will be asked to follow this strictly.

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- Floor markings will be used to ensure families are 2m apart at all times.

If a child falls ill with COVID symptoms?

- If a child falls ill and displays symptoms of COVID-19, they will be removed from class, and parents will be called to take them, and any siblings home.
- We will advise parents that they should follow government guidelines and not bring their child to school for 7 days, and their siblings for 14 days as guidelines state. Staff who are with your child will use PPE equipment.
- We will ask that you take your child to have a COVID test (if they are over 5 years old), which will be available to children attending school. In the event of a positive test, ALL children and staff in that bubble group will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

What if my child is clinically vulnerable?

- If your child is clinically *extremely* vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning.
- If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

If you believe your child falls into one of these categories, please contact the school for more information.

What if I am worried about my child returning to school?

I want to reassure you that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing.

We recommend that you consult the advice available before making an informed decision. There is a lot of information in the public arena and we appreciate it is a worrying time. I have included some links below.

[Reopening schools from 1st June](#) Department for Education

[Implementing Protective Measures in Educational Settings](#) Department for Education

[Parent Guidance for school reopening](#) Department of Education

[Too Risky, Too Confusing, Too Soon](#) British Medical Association Opinion

[Can Children catch covid-19?](#) World Health Organisation

If your child is able to come to school, and you make the choice for them to not return, we will support you as much as we can with learning.

There are no fines if children do not attend.

Lastly...

I hope this information has clarified our plan for returning to school. We have done our very best to mitigate risks. We know that, for some of you, it will remain difficult for working parents. We do understand this, and we wish we could safely do more.

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I will keep you updated once we know more about when the school will be able to reopen for other year groups.

We will give you seven days notice of each new year group starting back. For pupils at home, we'll continue to support you and your child with home learning, and continue to provide meal support for those eligible.

This has been an continues to be a very difficult time for all of us. Thank you for all of your understanding and support.

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