



Daven Primary School
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Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for your patience and your support to the schools over these last few days where information from the government and stories in the press have been coming thick and fast. To reassure you, all members of our schools have been working incredibly hard on reviewing the guidance and looking at plans to keep everyone as safe as possible in the event that we are asked to open schools to larger numbers of children on June 1st in the safest possible way. I would like to reiterate that this is a suggested date at the moment and no final decision by the government has been made yet, however this is the date we are working to currently.

We have now received guidance from the DfE about measures to be taken in school to reduce the risk of Covid19 infection when some children are able to return to school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

The government is asking schools to open for YN, YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils. We have made some tentative plans to get children back in to our schools as safely as possible and I wanted to write and let you know what school will look like for those pupils who return and to answer some of the concerns that have been raised.

It is really important that everybody understands that school will not look the way it normally does, particularly for our youngest pupils. There will be a significant change to the way children are organised and children will not necessarily be with the teacher or teaching assistant that they were with before schools closed to the majority of children. We will need to change the layout of classrooms and children may not be in the classroom they are used to and it will not be possible to allow free movement or play. This is due to the guidance that schools are expected to adhere to.

We will be sending an email to every parent who has a child in the specified year groups to ask them if they would like their child to come to school if we are asked to open on the 1st June.

Please could you respond to this email as a matter of urgency as we will need this information to plan our staffing. Please could you respond no later than 3pm on Monday 18th May.

We understand this is a tight deadline and once we have confirmation that schools are opening we will ask for final confirmation.

On the following pages I have attempted to answer some questions for you.

How will you keep the children apart?

It is widely accepted that social distancing in schools is nearly impossible, especially for our youngest pupils. We will be reminding children as far as possible, however we do not expect children to be 2m apart at all times as this is not a reasonable expectation.

Where necessary desks will be separated and children will be given their own writing equipment to reduce contamination.

Children will attend in small groups that we are calling 'bubbles'. These bubbles will be of a maximum of 15 children. Each bubble will have their own classroom, teacher, assigned toilet, play space etc. It is recommended that each bubble is kept separate from all the others and that pupils and adults stay with the same bubble throughout.

Your child will be taught by at least 2 different adults and they may not be the class teacher or teaching assistant that they had before the schools closed. All work will be set by a teacher; however, we have asked all staff members to be leaders of a bubble and therefore your child may be taught by a teaching assistant or a teacher. To make sure that our staffing can ensure the schools are able to keep running we have assigned at least 2 members of staff to each bubble on a rota basis, your child will have the same adult all week as far as possible.

This means that your child may have a new teacher on their return and that they may not see all their friends at school.

We will be introducing a home/school agreement to make sure that all children attending are aware of the rules and expectations of behaviour. We have to treat the safety of every person in the school building as the highest priority and therefore if a child is not willing or able to follow the rules then their place at school will need to be reviewed.

School will be open between 09:00 and 15:00 with teaching between 09:30 and 14:30. We will stagger drop-off and collection times in order to observe social distancing rules. You will be informed of your drop-off and collection time. Only one adult should accompany the pupil and no siblings please. Parents/carers should not enter the building or gather at school gates and doors. We will be adding markings to the ground as far as possible to help parents/carers with social distancing.

We will be staggering break and lunchtimes so that the 'bubbles' are not mixing together/moving around the school at the same time.

Movement around the school will be restricted in order to reduce the risk of contact.

How will you reduce the risk of infection for my child in school?

We will be completing a comprehensive risk assessment to inform us of all the measures we can take and we will respond to any new guidance and scientific information that we are given immediately.

It is not recommended for staff to wear PPE – staff will not as a general rule wear face masks, gloves, etc. However, there are times where they will, for example if they are supervising children who are ill/showing symptoms in school (whilst we wait for parents to collect), undertaking first aid on a child, or if it is necessary for a member of staff to come into very close contact with a child.

We will be carrying out temperature checks as the children arrive at school, and at lunchtime for each child and member of staff. Although it is unlikely any child will be brought to school with a temperature we feel this is a necessary to reassure all parents and staff that we are keeping the chances of an outbreak to a minimum.

- Children will work in 'bubbles'.
- Movement in classrooms and around the school will be restricted in order to reduce the risk of contact.
- Personal items such as toys must not come to and from school.

- We will be providing a packed lunch service for all children entitled to a school lunch, or those who wish to buy one in the children's classroom. Any packed lunches sent in from home must be in a disposable bag and any cutlery must be disposable.
- Very frequent hand washing and sanitising of surfaces will take place (children will be encouraged to help keep their own area clean), the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra will be stressed (bins will be emptied throughout the day).
- Each classroom will be cleaned by a cleaner during the day when children are outside and at the end of every day.
- Each set of toilets will be cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day – we have employed at least 1 cleaner to be on each site all day for these additional cleaning measures.
- Sinks for handwashing or hand sanitiser will be available in every classroom.
- Rooms will be as well ventilated as possible with doors and windows open (even if it is cold).
- We will be aiming to do as much outdoor learning as possible since being outdoors carries less risk of infection.
- Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames may not be accessible because of the difficulty of sharing surfaces and of cleaning.
- We encourage you to walk or cycle to school to avoid contact whilst parking.

Will my child have to wear school uniform?

It is important to reduce the chance of infection that you send your child in to school in clean clothes each day they are in school and wash all clothes at the end of the school day. Children therefore **MUST NOT** wear school uniform. If your child is scheduled to have a specific PE lesson we would ask you to send your child into school wearing appropriate clothing for exercise that they can wear all day. We do not want children changing in school and bringing in extra clothing.

What will the children be learning?

Our main focuses will be on the children's health and well-being, English and Maths, and on helping them transition back to school and to the next stage of their education. In order to be fair to all children, whether attending or not and for consistency, all children in each year group will have access to the same resources.

We aim to do lots of learning outdoors.

For children with highly complex needs (those who have a current EHCP) some elements of the EHC plan may not be able to be delivered in the normal manner (eg we will not be able to provide one to one support). We will use our best endeavours to deliver the provision specified in the EHC plan and will complete a risk assessment (which incorporates parents views) prior to admission.

For Year 6 parents it is important to note that we will be unable to help our Y6 pupils take part in the usual end of primary school activities.

We are currently talking to our secondary school colleagues about any transition work that they would like to complete with the Year 6 children.

Will there be a breakfast club and an after school club?

It **is not** possible to offer wrap around care in the form of before and after school clubs due to the government guidance. The breakfast club and the afterschool club will not be running.

What if my child becomes unwell?

If anyone has a cough/temperature/feels unwell at school, they will be sent home. They will need to self-isolate for 7 days, or until tested negative. Anyone in the child's household will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

If a child or member of staff shows symptoms and tests positive for CoVid-19, then the whole 'bubble' that the child/adult was in must be sent home and they must self-isolate for 14 days.

Staff and children should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.

What if my child has a medical condition or if I, or a member of my family, is 'shielding'?

Children or adults who are clinically extremely vulnerable (or 'shielding') or who live with someone who is 'shielding' should NOT attend school.

How can I contact the school?

From the 1st day the schools open a member of the admin team will be available to answer the telephone and to continue to deal with emails.

The reception desks will remain closed and no parents should attempt to enter the school buildings – please telephone or email with any questions or concerns.

My child is not in YN, YR, Y1 or Y6. Will they be returning before the end of the school year?

The government have said that it is their 'ambition' to bring all pupils back in to school before the end of the school year but that will depend on a number of factors. We will be better able to answer this question in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, all the current online learning resources will continue to be refreshed and sequenced. Any physical learning resources will continue to be sent home. (Please let us know if there is anything else that would be useful to you.)

We are not able to offer siblings a place in other year groups if you have a child in one of the specified year groups.

My child has been attending because I am a key worker. Can he/she still attend?

Yes – if not in YR, Y1 or Y6, these children will continue with their current arrangements. It is important to note that all schools following the government guidance have a maximum capacity of 15 children per classroom. Therefore, we have a limited number of places available and we will be using the same approach for these places as we have before i.e. it must be last resort for child care.

Is it compulsory for my child to attend?

It is not compulsory for your child to attend and there will be no sanctions for non-attendance. We will endeavour to follow all the guidelines and to take all the precautions we can to keep your child safe should you decide to send your child to school; however, we understand that you will want to make your own decision about what is best for your child under these circumstances and we will support and respect whatever you decide.

You can contact admin by email if you wish to discuss any further concerns and a member of the team will call you.

Yours faithfully

Sally Whitehead
Daven Primary School
Head Teacher

Dan Thomas
CEO Learning for Life Partnership