

Dear Parents and Carers of Farnborough Primary School,

15 May 2020

RE: Arrangements for staggered school re-opening

Following the Government's announcement that schools will re-open for some pupils from 1 June, I am writing to share with you the arrangements that schools across the Trust are making for phased re-opening to selected year groups. The Trust has, in its COVID-19 planning, always taken into consideration the guidance of Government and Unions. This has enabled our five hub schools to work effectively and safely during the closed period and deliver home learning for our children.

The Government information on the re-opening of schools has been assessed by the Trust and we have considered the updated Government and Union guidance in the design of the plan. Health and Safety of all has also been of paramount importance. Some in our communities may be anxious about the risk and possible spread of the virus and we have planned our phased re-opening in small steps, initially covering the period from June to July.

Some of these arrangements are already in place in our schools and hubs which are currently open for key worker and vulnerable pupils. Additional measures are now being put into place, to reintroduce groups of children in a gradual, co-ordinated and controlled manner. From 1 June, all NEST schools will be open and children currently in hub schools will return to their own school. There will be no before and after school provision in the first instance.

It is important to stress that, whilst we understand that the Government's ambition to open school settings, NEST schools will only re-open if we can be assured that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure the safety and protection of children and staff in line with Health and Safety guidelines. Re-opening is also heavily dependent on the number of classrooms in each school and the availability of staff. All schools will need to have completed robust risk assessments before reopening and we will continue to review the arrangements we have put in place for phased re-opening on a weekly basis and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

Plan for re-opening of all NEST schools:

Date	Phase	Junior Schools	Additional Pupils
w/c 1 June	All infant and primary schools open for Year 1 pupils	Alexandra Juniors and Highfield Juniors open for Yr6 pupils	Children of key workers, vulnerable pupils and those with Education Health Plans (places agreed by the school)
w/c 8 June	All infant and primary schools open for Year 6 Pupils (in addition to Yr1 pupils)	As above	Children of key workers, vulnerable pupils and those with Education Health Plans (places agreed by the school)
w/c 15 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the first two weeks of re-opening we will be reviewing the numbers of pupils and staff and the capacity we have in our schools to accommodate more pupils in socially distanced groups. The decision to bring other year groups back into schools will be made with due consideration to the safe working and learning environments for all our pupils and staff. A key recommendation for mitigating infection is social distancing. This is going to be challenging for most children and will require careful co-ordination whilst children are working and playing in small groups. We will not be inviting other year groups, including Reception, to return to school until we are satisfied that we have the space, staffing and systems for those children to return safely. Parents will be informed about the decisions on next phase of opening. 		

Please be aware that our schools are all different in terms of size, space and staff availability. Implementation in terms of timetabling groups will need to be adapted for each school and context and may well change, when we reintroduce additional year groups. It is unlikely that children who return will all have their normal teacher or TA as schools try to rotate staffing and make use of their resources effectively. Please be assured, however, that whilst we know that everyday life in school will be very different to that which children are used to, leaders and staff will do everything possible to ensure that children can have fun and enjoy being back in school.

Below is an **overview** of the preventative measures that schools are putting in place to minimise the spread of infection. As a Trust we are following DFE guidance but also putting in our own measures to ensure that we are taking all reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of infection. Details of these measures can be found in the NEST Phased Return to School Plan and corresponding template for Risk Assessment now published on your school's website.

Measures to maintain a safe school environment for pupils and staff:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school and clear signage for safe movement around the school.
- Putting in place training for staff to ensure risk assessment expectations are understood and actioned.
- Restricted entry to the school premises.
- Social distancing expectations to be clearly explained to all the children and respiratory hygiene expectations to be revisited regularly. We do not underestimate how hard this will be for young children.
- All classrooms to be set up in line with social distancing measures. The maximum number of pupils per class up to 10, dependent on size of room. These groups work together, play together in small groups, and eat together. They will not mix with other groups.
- Handwashing/sanitising stations in each classroom and regular handwashing to be observed throughout the day.
- No shared use of individual equipment. Children will be given their own resource pack which will be cleaned regularly. Class equipment will be cleaned regularly.
- Frequently touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Windows to be open as far as possible to ensure sufficient ventilation.
- Doors open, when safe, to minimise use of door handles.
- Regular cleaning of surfaces that children and staff are touching.
- Ensuring food available for pupils is prepared and served safely.
- Staggered drop off, pick up, lunchtimes and playtimes to reduce the risk of contact. Only one parent or carer to drop off/pick up children at start and close of day.

Clinically Vulnerable Pupils

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.

Attending School From 1 June Survey:

The short survey, in the link below, is for you to indicate if you wish your child to return to school or to remain at home engaging in home learning. Please support your school's planning for re-opening by completing the survey by 10am on Monday 18 May. The survey needs to be completed by parents and carers of children across all year groups - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z9BJ59X>

Next week, Headteachers will write to the parents and carers of children who have indicated that they

will be returning to school on 1 June (Phase 1). This letter will outline each school's specific arrangements for re-opening in terms of timetabling, drop off, pick up etc. As we move through our phased return, Headteachers will write to parents and carers of returning year groups with similar details. Home learning for all groups will continue and all parents and carers will be kept updated.

In conclusion, I understand that many children will be keen to come out of isolation, to return to school and once again see their friends. Equally, we realise that parents and carers will naturally have anxieties and will want to know how schools will address the safety issues. Government guidance encourages prioritised eligible children to attend their education setting, unless they are self-isolating or they are clinically vulnerable, however it is parents or carers decision to send their children into school in this period.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation during this phased reopening.

Yours faithfully

Paula Farrow
CEO

Frequently Asked Questions

Will children and staff be compelled to wear face coverings at school?

The DfE has indicated that this will not be required and have published advice on protective measures in schools on the DfE website.

Can I change my mind about whether to send my child back to school?

We would prefer for you to make a decision immediately. However, we will contact you again after the first two weeks of re-opening and ask you to make a decision one way or another. This will enable us to decide if we are able to bring other year groups back into school.

Will school meals be available for pupils?

Yes, and risks assessments will be carried out to ensure that lunches can be prepared and delivered safely.

Will these be the arrangements for schools in September?

No. These arrangements are only those applicable from **1 June – 17 July**.

What will schools do if a child or member of staff starts to display symptoms?

If a child or member of staff displays symptoms, they will be sent home immediately and follow the government's self-isolation guidance. If a child or staff member displays symptoms, they will immediately be isolated from others. The school will then contact parents and carers and request they collect their child from the school immediately.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>