

15/05/2020

Chalton Lower School Arrangements for the reopening of school

My apologies for the lengthy document, but I want to explain how we intend to implement our plan. Please can you read this even if it does not yet apply to your child yet as they may be invited to attend school later in the term.

Following the Government's announcement this week on the reopening of schools, we as staff have been working on how we can best provide this whilst at the same time protecting both staff and children.

LOCKDOWN

We have been operating a group at school since lockdown began. The staff come in every week at various points and have worked with the children. The children have been safe and happy and playing together as a group even though they are different ages. We have followed hygiene procedures and everyone has been well. So, using what we know and government advice, we have formulated this plan.

PPE Equipment

We will not be wearing any PPE protection and do not expect the children to wear any masks. This is following government advice.

Classes

We have been directed to introduce the Nursery/Reception and Year 1 back into school in the first instance. This is a parental choice. You are 'strongly encouraged' by government to send your child in, but there will currently be no fines if you decide against. We will be sending out another survey for this group to ask you which option you are choosing and should we not hear from you we will be contacting you by phone for your response, but there will be no pressure from me on your decision. We just need to advise the School Meals service on our numbers so that they can order from their suppliers.

To try and promote social distancing we are proposing two 'bubbles' within the school. This will be the Nursery and Reception together and the Year 1. The group will consist of no more than 15 children. The 'bubbles' will be kept apart and not mixed. There will be allocated staff to each bubble and they would remain with the children all day and would have no interaction with the other group. Miss Woolridge and Miss Blount will be leading the bubbles as they are their classes.

There are a number of keyworker children who are currently in school and these will be accommodated within these groups unless numbers are too high and then we will utilise the last classroom.

Social distancing

Within the classroom, we will encourage social distancing, but the Nursery/Reception classroom is not set up in this manner. We will speak to the children about trying to keep apart and this will be discussed with them as they settle back into school.

The year 1's will have their own desk in the classroom alongside a number of pieces of equipment kept in their drawer on the table. This will eliminate movement around the classroom. Again, we will talk to the children about social distancing and will find innovative ways of interacting.

School uniform

Children will need to wear their school uniform. I appreciate that they may have grown out of things but it will create that sense of belonging to school. We will accept trainers as there are only a certain number of weeks left in the term. We have a number of sweatshirts and cardigans at school that we can provide. We will need you to label your child's sweatshirts/cardigans so that we are not looking for them, but we will set rules where they are to be kept to cut down losing them.

Handwashing

There will be a strong emphasis on handwashing and using hand sanitisers during the day. Children arriving at school will wash their hands before going into the classroom. They will continue to wash their hands as they move from activities during the day, before/after play and lunch times. Desks and work areas will be sprayed regularly after each activity. Equipment will be sprayed at the end of the day.

Lunch times

There will be two sessions so that the groups do not meet. We have received confirmation from our school dinner providers that they will be providing sandwich bags rather than hot meals.

Curriculum

We will be completing work in school with the children, but on a scaled down version much as it has been over the last few weeks. We will try and provide the same work for those children to do at home but we appreciate this can be difficult, so anything you do to help your child is appreciated.

The children will be learning and playing outside so that we are in the fresh air as much as possible.

We will probably continue to complete the Joe Wicks exercise sessions every day or something similar so that we establish a daily routine.

Contact with school

We would like only one adult to bring their child to school.

There will be no contact with the staff as I need to consider their well-being and keep them safe. Should the staff become ill it will be difficult for the school to keep each of the bubbles open and then we would have to partially close.

Should you have any queries or questions regarding work, these will need to be sent into the School Office and will be answered by myself either through email or telephone. You will not receive any responses on the face book page as I have to limit the time that staff are working.

Arriving and Leaving School

There will be an allocated time of arrival for each class.

- Year 1 and other keyworker children – 8.30 to 8.45 am
 - Nursery/Reception – 8.45 – 9.00 am
- {Should you have a child in each bubble, then you should arrive at the earliest time slot.}

If you arrive later than your slot you will have to wait until after 9.00 am when all the other children have arrived.

To keep you safe and apart from other parents/children we are proposing that you walk up to school on the same side as the school, but that once you have left your child at the school gate by the road, then you cross over to walk down to your car.

Or, you can stop outside on the road directly by the gate and your child can get out of the car and come straight in. We appreciate it might be difficult if you have other children who are not in school.

Staff will be waiting at the inside school gate to greet the children in the time slot.

At the end of the day, this will be in reverse. Walk up to the school on the opposite side to the school and wait on that side until we have your child at the gate and then cross over to meet them. Then walk down on the same side as the school. Hopefully this will maintain social distancing.

Exit times

- Nursery/Reception – 3.10 to 3.20 pm
- Year 1 – 3.20 to 3.30 pm

School Bags and Water Bottles

We only want water bottles in school. There will be no reading books coming out of school so you do not need to send them in.

Coats

We will need a coat into school every day.

Illness

Should your child have a cold or feel unwell we would advise you not to send them to school as we wish to keep everyone safe. If staff become ill, we do not have enough to cover and will have to close parts or all of school.

If your child becomes ill at school we will immediately isolate them from the bubble and telephone you to come and collect them.

Planning Time

It may be that we will have to close at 1.00 pm on a Friday. Staff will have to prepare the activities for the next week and do require time for this just as they do normally.

Updates

New information and guidelines are received into school every day and we will keep both our arrangements and you informed.

Contact

I am in school on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday if you wish to speak to me with any concerns.

During half-term, it will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. [At the time of writing.]

Liz Noble

We will place a copy of this on the School's website.