

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We know that you may have a lot of questions about the reopening of school. Hopefully, this letter will provide you with some more clarity and answer some of your questions and worries.

Summit Learning Trust has made the decision that Yarnfield Primary School will do a phased return for years 6, 1 and Reception.

- Year 6 will return to school on Wednesday 15th June at 9:00am
- Year 1 will return to school on Monday 22nd June at 9:15am
- Reception will return to school on Monday 29th June at 9:30am

The children of Key Workers who are currently attending school will continue to attend.

In the questionnaire that we ran, some parents have indicated that they will be sending their children back to school whilst others are choosing to keep them at home. For those parents that choose to keep their children at home, there is no penalty for this; the decision is down to the individual parents making this decision for their own child. The Government states that, "Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time."

I hope that the rest of this letter provides with you with the answers to questions you may have and explains how we intend to manage the reopening of school. We will continue to review our systems in school, following any further guidance given. You will be informed about changes we make.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jandu

Principal

Here are some of the changes that will happen at Yarnfield Primary School:

- Children will start and end the school day at different times. It is really important that pupils come into school on time to ensure social distancing requirements are in place.
 - Year 6 arrive at 9:00 – 9:15 and finish school at 3.00pm
 - Year 1 arrive at 9:15 – 9:30am and finish school at 2:45pm
 - Reception arrive at 9:30 – 9:40am and finish school at 2:30pm
- Children **SHOULD NOT** wear school uniform and **MUST** come in clean clothes daily.
- Children should only bring a water bottle to school and no other bags or belongings.
- Children in Year 6 who make their own way to school will still be able to do so (ensuring that they socially distance).
- Parents/carers and their children will have to observe 2 metre social distancing. There will be markers and signs on the ground outside of the gates as reminders.
- We suggest that only one adult is allowed to bring/collect their children to and from school.
- If your child is upset when you bring them to school, we will not be able to physically take them off you as we might have done in the past - a member of staff will encourage them from a safe distance.
- Teachers will stay 2 metres away from children where possible, including in the classroom and outdoors.
- Parents/carers will not be able to remain in the playground after their child is in the school building.
- There will be no breakfast club or after school clubs.
- School will finish for all pupils at 1pm on Fridays, except those of key worker children. This enables the school to be cleaned and teachers to plan for the following week.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – WHEN SCHOOL REOPENS

Can you guarantee my child's safety?

We will do our absolute best to keep your children safe. However, we cannot 100% guarantee your child's safety. We will do everything that we possibly can to ensure that children social distance and maintain good hand hygiene at all times.

How will you manage the children and staff so that they are safe as possible?

- The school building, including corridors, will have plenty of signs to remind and encourage children to social distance.
- Children will be taught and supervised in small groups - These will be known as 'Pods'. The maximum pods size will be 15 (in line government guidance).
- Children will have two adults allocated to teach their group. This limits contact with other children and adults.
- Children will sit at their own table. This table will be placed apart from other tables.
- When queueing in the corridors, children will be stood on markers that will be placed 2 metres apart.
- Children will not be mixing with other groups. They will have playtimes, lunchtimes and class time with their pods. Therefore, they will not see children in other pods.
- Children will not be sharing tables or equipment. They will have a set of stationary.
 - Break-times and lunchtimes will be at different times so that children do not mix.
 - The school will be cleaned throughout the day
 - We have extra hand sanitisers in school
 - Staff will be provided with PPE when dealing with First Aid and unwell children.
 - Children will have to wash their hands regularly throughout the day.

What will a typical classroom look like?

Here you can see a photograph of what our classrooms will look like.



What about children in Nursery, Y2, 3, 4 and 5?

If you have a child in **Nursery, Year 2, 3, 4 or 5**, it is not possible for them to return to school yet. The government will tell us when other year groups can come to school. The siblings of pupils who are returning will not currently be able to come in unless they are in **Year 6, 1 or Reception**.

Can I send my child to school on some days but not others?

No. We have made the decision that if you are sending your children to school, they must attend every day. If you have chosen to not send your child to school, you cannot change your mind at this point. School will review provision every 2 weeks so that we can ensure that there is enough staff in school to accommodate additional children.

I originally said no to my child returning to school, can I change my mind at a later date?

Yes, this is possible. However, you will need to let the school know at least 5 days before your child returns to school so that arrangements can be made. Any children that we are not expecting in school will be asked to go home until we can ensure that the correct number of staff are in school.

What kind resources will the children be using?

Resources will be limited. We will only use equipment that can be wiped down. We will be keeping the use of books to a minimum. Currently, we will not be able to change or send out any new home reading books during this time.

What about children in Reception?

Children in Reception will be expected to maintain the 2 metre rule (this is going to be challenging!). Children will be able to use some of the equipment that will be put out, providing it can be wiped down. The amount of equipment that we will use will be limited.

The outdoor area will be used, but again, children will not be playing with other pods and they will be made to stay 2 metres apart from each other.

What will you be teaching? What will the curriculum look like?

Children have spent a very long time away from school and so will have not seen their friends and teachers. Our curriculum will spend a lot of time focusing on:

- Mental health
- How to stay safe
- Dealing with the current situation in the world
- Managing emotions and anxieties

Will my child have their usual class teacher?

Possibly, but this cannot be guaranteed because children will be working in small groups.

In addition to this, there will be a focus on:

- Reading, phonics, Writing and Maths in Reception and Year 1
- English, Maths and transition to secondary school in Year 6

Will you continue to put the Weekly Home Learning on your school website?

Yes, we will continue to send out 'home learning project sheets' weekly for those children learning at home. There are additional resources and activities on the school website.

School Meals (Universal Infant School Meals/FSM and paid meals)

If your child receives Free School Meals (FSM) or they are in Reception or Year 1, your child will receive a free lunch from school. We will still continue to provide paid meals for children in Year 6 or they can bring a packed lunch.

I am entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). Will my Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 child still get the FSM eCodes (vouchers)?

No. From the 15th June, if you send your child to school, they will have their Free School Meal in school. If you do not send your child to school and they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, they will continue to receive a voucher.

What if a child becomes unwell in school with Coronavirus symptoms?

If any child becomes unwell whilst at school (with Coronavirus symptoms), they will be isolated and must be collected immediately. You will then need keep your child and their siblings at home for 14 days.

Can children get tested for Coronavirus?

All staff and children will be able to be tested if they develop Coronavirus symptoms. Where the person tests positive, the rest of their 'pods' will be sent home and will be instructed to self-isolate for 14 days.

What about parents picking up and dropping off?

Parents will need to wait by gates. We will have a one-way system for you to drop off and pick up your child. The queues will be 2 metres apart to allow for social distancing. We ask that parents show patience whilst waiting.

If have children in more than one year group that had returned to school, what time should I collect them?

For families who have more than one child returning to school e.g Year 6 and Reception – please drop both children to school at the latest time slot and then collect at the earliest time slot. This is to reduce traffic outside of the school gates.

When will school be open for more children?

We will wait for the government to make further announcements and contact in due course.

Can I meet with my child's class teacher?

We are trying to minimise the number of adults entering the building therefore advising that parents do not come into reception wherever possible. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please call the office and arrange a telephone appointment with the teacher.

Will my child be doing PE? Do they need to bring in a PE kit?

Children will be doing PE and outdoor activities but they will not require a change of clothing as we are asking for a clean outfit each day.