



**Morningside
Primary School**
and Children's Centre
Achieving and Aspiring Together

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Friday 29th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: phased return to school

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on the wider reopening of schools. The government has now announced that the five tests have been met and schools will begin a phased reopening from Monday 1st June to children in nursery reception, year 1 and year 6.

We have created a detailed plan to make sure we can do the best we can to safely welcome these year groups back. This has been agreed by the Primary Advantage federation and the school governors. We are implementing a cautious and phased approach to the wider return of children to Morningside. We will **not** be opening to children on June 1st. We will use the 1st-5th of June to prepare the building and train adults in the new systems and health and safety protocols. We will welcome back key worker children and vulnerable children on June 2nd.

We will be welcoming back our youngest children from the 2 Year Old nursery and the Nursery 3 and 4 year olds from **Monday 8th June**.

If the systems and structures in place proceed as planned we will look to follow this first group by welcoming Reception children onsite from Monday 15th June. The Year 1 and year 6 groups will be welcomed the following weeks but this will depend on staff having full confidence in the safety measures in place and on pupil and staff numbers.

What measures to reduce risk will be in place across the school?

Please read the following findings from our risk assessment (which takes into account the government, local authority and union guidance):

- Children will be working in 'groups' of no more than 15 children. These 'groups' will be decided by the school staff, and the children will stay in these groups until the end of the school year – **they will not be able to mix with any other groups at any time or change groups due to the risk of infection.**
- If an individual in a group shows symptoms, they will be sent home and you will have to organise a test. If the test comes back COVID positive, then the rest of the group will have to isolate for 14 days.
- Some children will not be looked after by their class teacher, but by a suitably qualified teaching assistant or a teacher from another part of the school who may not be familiar to them. Some staff may want to wear PPE.

- Children in Rainbow Nursery, school nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 will be in their own classroom if possible but with an unfamiliar set up and unlikely to be with preferred friendship groups, or following the usual school timetable and structure. We know that this will cause anxiety for some pupils and parents. **Despite our very best endeavours, we are not going to be able to offer the known environment that your child left, although we will try our very best because we know your children.**
- The classrooms will be re-organised so that the children have their own desk/zone
- Some of the equipment within the Nursery and Reception classrooms will be removed as the equipment left in the classroom will need to be regularly cleaned
- At lunchtime, the children eat in their classroom. Children will be given a school lunch. Packed lunches brought from home must be in a bag that can be disposed of at school.
- Playtimes will be staggered in segregated areas for each group – there will be no mixing between groups.
- The government does not recommend that staff or children wear PPE (unless dealing with first aid or intimate hygiene). However, should you wish, your child will be able to wear their own PPE (with written permission, due to health and safety risks)
- Handwashing, alcohol-based gel rubs and increased hygiene routines will take place regularly throughout the day and all surfaces and touch points will be wiped down regularly with disinfectant
- Children will be given their own pencil cases containing all of the stationery that they need. They will not be sharing these resources. In Nursery and Reception, shared toys will be sanitised at the end of each day
- You will be required to read and sign an updated, COVID19 specific Home School agreement before your child returns to school.

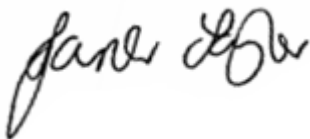
I want to reassure you again that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. We'll provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening in the coming weeks, so you can make the appropriate decision.

Please be reminded that in the meantime and until you receive a phone call telling you that you have a place, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers.

We'll keep you updated once we know start dates for nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6. As soon as I am told more about when the school will be able to reopen for other year groups I will let you know. For pupils at home, we'll continue to support you and your child with home learning, and meal support for those eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office between 8.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Yours sincerely



Janet Taylor

Head teacher

