



Tuesday 19th May, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support in these unprecedented times. At Abbots Green, we share the Government's ambition to welcome back to school initially children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes and also, if possible, for all primary aged children to be back in school before the summer break.

More importantly, the safety of children and staff are integral to our planning; we are following closely all available guidance that is regularly changing. We are currently reviewing our risk assessment to outline how we can re-open the school safely. Whilst we are following all guidance, it is impossible to eliminate all risks during the transition back into to school, just as it is in the outside world. We are faced with contrasting guidance that asks us to ensure social distancing that could be at the detriment to the emotional needs of all our children.

Where staff capacity of schools allows, we will aim to reopen our school in a phased manner, looking to support parents and carers return to work in a safe way.

We are planning for:

- children of critical workers and vulnerable children to continue to attend school as now (8-4pm)
- children in Nursery, Reception to attend school from Monday 1 June – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning including lunchtime, Thursday and Friday – school will end at 12'o clock on Wednesday as all schools across the trust will be having additional deep cleaning on Wednesday afternoons (timings for start and finish time will be staggered to accommodate this)
- Continued high quality distance learning for children in ALL year groups, this will also be delivered in school

An example of planned measures:

- Specific drop off and collection points for each group of children at staggered times
- A classroom allocated to each group of up to 15 children, this group will remain the same with the potential of other children joining each week depending on the need
- Adults allocated to each group (this will **NOT** always be your child's class teacher)
- Handwashing stations in classrooms for frequent and effective cleaning
- Designated outdoor space for each group of children to ensure no mixing with others
- All learning will take place in allocated classrooms- there will be no access to the street, library, food tech room or hall.

Our aim is to start this offer from Monday 1st June, to children in Nursery, Reception, with Year 1 and Year 6 classes from Tuesday 2nd June. The reason for this is to ensure that we have all measures in place to support the transition back into school safely.

This date is dependent on further confirmation by the Government that these plans should go ahead.

These plans are subject to:

- the Government confirming that its tests for the partial and phased reopening of schools are met
- schools having to adapt arrangements if the uptake by families of school places changes significantly from what was expected
- changes at short notice due to staff shortages – we are not aiming to use supply staff as we will be looking to, as much as possible, keep consistent groups of adults and children
- any action by Public Health England in the light of an outbreak of Covid-19 in a class

We recognise that parents will have mixed feelings about their children returning to school.

We will be surveying parents each Monday about their intentions for the following week, including about whether parents want their child to be provided with a packed lunch or will bring their own. This first request for information is being made further in advance than we expect in future weeks because we still await further Government guidance and have agreed to discuss with the trade unions that represent our staff the detail of the arrangements we are putting in place. We look forward to children returning to school, and feel passionate about supporting families with this transition when you feel the time is right for your child.

There will be no penalties for parents who are not yet ready for their children to return to school.

This letter is going to all parents so that you are aware of our thinking. Please use the link below for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6 children. With a separate survey for years 2, 3, 4, and 5. We do not expect final confirmation by the Government of a start to these plans until during the half-term week. We will, of course, let you know as soon as we can.

Please reply by the 4pm on Wednesday 20th May. If you are unable to access the survey, then please do complete below and return to the school office via office@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk.

To ensure that we can continue to prepare effectively, school will only be open for Key worker children on **Friday 22nd May**. As a school, we have recognised the importance of preparation so will therefore not be running home schooling on this day. Videos and home learning will be shared but responses and contact from staff will be minimal to facilitate the needs of staff and pupils from after half term.

I will write to all families again shortly with updated plans to share the next phase in returning to Abbots Green.

Many thanks for your ongoing support,

Kindest regards

Mrs Ang Morrison

Survey link –

Keyworker families and vulnerable children, Y 2,3,4 & 5 - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RD7HWWC>
Primary school children returning in R, Y1 & Y6 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QPT2SPH>