

PARTIAL RE-OPENING – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please note that all plans are subject to change in the interests of pupil and staff safety.

If you have a question about our plans for partial re-opening, please contact the school office or Mrs Morrison via email or letter.

Are you definitely re-opening on Monday 1st June?

No. The Government will decide whether or not it is safe for schools to start to re-open. This decision is likely to be made over half term (week commencing 25th May) and we will almost certainly find out at the same time as you in a Government briefing. As soon as we know more, we will let you know.

If the Government say it's OK, are you definitely re-opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6?

We hope so, but this depends on how many staff are available. The Government have asked all schools to prioritise the children of critical workers, then Nursery, then Reception, then Year 1, and finally Year 6. If we cannot safely provide staff for all of these year groups, there is a chance that we may need to delay the return of Year 6, or only have some Year 6 pupils return to begin with.

How many children will my child come into contact with?

We are planning on the assumption that all of the children in the above year groups are returning to school, and are putting children into groups of up to 15 children, sometimes referred to as 'bubbles'; once finalised prior to re-opening, the groups will not be changed, so if not all of the children return, there will be fewer than 15 in a group. Each 'bubble' will have its own classroom, outdoor play area and even toilet cubicles which only those pupils will use. We cannot accommodate all friendship needs.

Who will be looking after my child?

Because we are having to cover at least two groups in each of the above years, as well as at least one group for the children of critical workers in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, most staff are having to be deployed across different year groups to where they normally work. As far as possible, there will be at least one member of staff in your child's group that they are familiar with – this might be a teacher or teaching assistant. The staff supervising your child may change during the week, for example if there is a job share, but the team of staff who work with your child's group will remain the same each week, and those staff will not work with any other groups of children. If we need to make any changes to staffing (e.g. to cover absence) we will let you know and do this as safely as possible.

Where will my child be based?

Groups have been split up across the school as follows:

- Nursery: Evergreen Building
- Reception: Buttercups and Daisy Class
- Year 1: Lavender and Poppy classrooms (Year 2), with possibility of extending into Year 1

- Year 6: Key Stage 2 building using Year 6 classrooms
- Children of key workers: Hall/ Foxglove and Sunflower classrooms (Year 3)
- Classrooms will be converted so that they are suitable for the children who will be in there, with appropriate furniture, toys etc.

What will be the arrangements for dropping off and picking up my child?

We are staggering pick up and drop off times to reduce congestion on site. We are currently working towards children being dropped off and picked up as follows:

	Drop off	Collection
Evergreen (Nursery)	9am	3:30pm
Reception	9:15am	3:30pm
Year 1	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 6	8:15am	3:00pm
Key worker provision	8am	4pm

Two metre ‘queuing lines’, similar to supermarkets, will be marked out to support with walking at a social distance. Further details of one way routes into and out of school will be confirmed.

Year 6 are not allowed to walk to school and walk home alone.

How will I know what group my child is in?

We will communicate this to you privately via parent mail or telephone call; staff will also be on hand to assist you on the first morning if you are not sure which group your child is in. We can not share the names of other children in the group due to data protection.

What if I am a Key Worker and my child is in one of the year groups which is returning to school?

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and they are only attending during the normal school day (see above for staggered timings), they will be in one of the groups with children from their year group.

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and they also require 8-4pm provision they will have to remain in the key worker group, as children cannot move across groups. If you would like them to be in a group with their year group, you will need to speak to your employer to request flexible working hours within the normal school day.

Will Sunrisers and Sunsetters be running?

No. Wrap around care from 8-4pm will only be available for the critical worker group (see above). Food will not be available, so please provide your child with additional snacks and drinks if they attend the key worker provision.

Does my child have to wear uniform?

No. Please provide non uniform suitable for this time of year: a sun hat, and a coat if it's cold or wet. Clean, practical clothing must be worn each day, for example leggings/ joggers and a t-shirt.

What about breaks and lunchtimes?

These will be staggered so that different groups will be outside at different times, again staying in their separate outdoor spaces or classrooms allocated to your child's group.

Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms; we will not be using the dining hall or the main hall. Your child can either bring their own packed lunch, or they can have one provided by our normal catering company (Vertas). Children in Reception and Year 1 are entitled to a 'Universal Infant Free School Meal' as normal, and children in Years 2 to 6 who are eligible for Free School Meals are also entitled to a free packed lunch. All other pupils can purchase a packed lunch. This is not pick and Mix.

Please provide your child with utensils if they need them with a packed lunch from home, for example a spoon for a yoghurt. We will not using any additional catering equipment.

Will my child have to remain in their own 'square' at breaks and lunchtimes?

No. The scientific guidance states that the risk of transmission is much lower outdoors; however, we will still be reminding children about social distancing, and each group will have its own designated bubble space. Social distancing will be strongly encouraged.

Does my child have to return full-time?

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, we will plan for your child to be in full-time and we would encourage you to send them in every day.

If your child is in Nursery, we will speak to you separately about when you would like your child to attend, as we do under normal circumstances.

If your child is in Year 2, 3, 4 or 5 and you are a key worker or your child has been identified as vulnerable, you can book the sessions that you require (for key workers, this must only be when you are working at your place of employment) as you have been doing.

What are you doing to keep the school as clean as possible?

In addition to our normal cleaning, we will buying in additional cleaning services: there will be a cleaner on site throughout the day to clean toilet areas and to help with cleaning classrooms; and all schools in our trust will close after lunch on Wednesdays so that we can have an additional midweek deep clean, as follows:

- Nursery: Pick up at 12pm on Wednesday afternoons;
- Reception: Pick up at 12:30pm on Wednesday afternoons;
- Year 1: Pick up at 12:15pm on Wednesday afternoons;
- Year 6: Pick up at 11:45am on Wednesday afternoons;
- Key Worker Group at 4pm

Classrooms will also have their own cleaning materials so that staff can routinely clean desks, toys etc. throughout the day.

How are you keeping my child safe when they are in class?

Every child will have their own space to store their belongings in class, with pegs in corridors not being used.

In all classes, including Reception, children will have their own desk, chair, tray, pens, pencils etc. that will be only used by them and cleaned regularly. Desks will be spaced out as much as possible, and any furniture or equipment which is not needed will be removed and stored in the hall so that there is as much room as possible for children and staff to spread out. Any shared equipment, such as laptops and iPads, will be cleaned regularly.

Resources will be limited to support with cleanliness, toys and resources will be used sparingly but will be cleaned if used.

Windows and doors will be left open as much as possible, whilst still keeping everyone safe, so that there is as much ventilation as possible.

What do I need to provide for my child?

Children should have a water bottle as normal, or more than one if it is hot. Please apply sun cream before your child comes to school – do not send it in for staff to apply or for children to apply themselves (this is our normal school rule anyway).

You can either provide your child with a packed lunch or get one from our school catering company (see above).

Please do not send your child in with their own pencil case, stationery, toys etc. All of these will be safely provided for them.

If your child is not yet toilet trained and you normally provide nappies/pull ups, nappy sacks etc. please continue to do so.

If my child is not in school, will you still be setting home learning for them to do?

The home learning schedules and interaction will continue, however, please bear in mind that staff are now in school so will not reply promptly.

What will my child be learning in school if they return?

Our main focus will be on re-establishing safe routines and relationships.

The home school schedule will be followed to ensure consistency between home and school at this time with the addition of plenty of time spent outside.

Who will look after my child if they are hurt or upset?

Each year group will have its own first aid kit, so that your child will be looked after by a member of staff in their group if they hurt themselves. In the event of a more serious accident, our first aiders will advise from a safe distance as far as possible, and emergency services will be called as usual. PPE will be provided for the adult administering first aid.

If your child is upset or worried, we will of course provide as much care and support as possible; however, we will not expect staff to provide physical reassurance in the same way as normal.

If we feel that a child is not coping within the social distancing measure we will ask you to collect them to support their emotional well being and reduce the risk to adults.

Will you be taking my child's temperature when they arrive at school and/or throughout the day?

No. The government guidance is very clear that this is not in itself a reliable test for whether or not a person has Covid-19. However, if you have any concern about your child's health, please keep them at home and arrange for them to be tested; if we have any concerns about your child's health when they arrive at school or throughout the school day, we will ask you to take them home and arrange for them to be tested immediately.

Will staff and children be wearing face masks or any other PPE?

Again, the government guidance is very clear that staff and children do not need to wear face masks, face coverings or any other personal protective equipment (PPE) when they are in school. In the case of staff, there are two exceptions:

- If a member of staff normally wears PPE, such as gloves when changing a nappy or administering first aid;
- If a member of staff is supervising a child who is unwell with symptoms of Covid-19, until they are collected.

Will children and staff be social distancing?

As far as is reasonable, yes, although the Government guidance acknowledges that this is very difficult to maintain in a school, especially with young children. This is why the children and staff are being kept in 'bubbles' with as close to no contact with other staff and children as we can reasonably maintain. The children will be taught about social distancing and 'personal space' in a fun, positive way through lessons and activities such as social stories.

Can my child go to the toilet and wash their hands whenever they want?

If they need to go to the toilet, then of course; however, we will be supervising the toilets areas at all times, including movement to and from the toilets, with specific cubicles for each bubble to use and staggered times throughout the day for the children to 'try to go'. Similarly, we will be asking the children to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day, as well as specific times such as before and after they have their lunch, whenever they have been outside etc. Again, the sinks will be supervised by members of

staff and cleaned throughout the day. The children will also be taught and reminded about good hygiene, such as washing their hands for 20 seconds and using tissues to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when they sneeze.

What if someone in the school gets Covid-19?

The Government and Public Health England will tell us what to do if there is either a suspected case, or a confirmed case, of Covid-19 involving a pupil or member of staff who is attending school, and we will clearly communicate this to you if it happens; for example, if there is a confirmed case (i.e. a positive test), all of the children and staff in that group will be sent home and instructed to self-isolate for 14 days.

Will the office still be open?

No. Although there will be staff working in the office, we must keep the number of people who have to enter the foyer to an absolute minimum. An additional screen is being fitted in the office to protect our staff; however, as many enquiries as possible should be made via telephone or email.

Will any or all of the normal end of year events be happening?

Sadly, this is very unlikely. Things like sports days, leavers services, discos and residentials will all have to be cancelled this year unless Government guidance changes and we can be sure that they can take place safely. Unfortunately, it is reasonable to assume that none of them will take place.

What about getting my child ready for September?

As always at this time of year, we are finalising staffing for September, and will announce when all has been confirmed. We have already been planning how we can make transition as strong and positive as possible, whether your child is joining or leaving Abbots Green, or moving up a class; in particular, we have been talking to the High Schools about the needs of our current Year 6's who are moving up in September.

Everyone who will be with us in September will have lots of opportunities to get to know their new teachers and teaching assistants. If it is safe to do any transition days or activities in school nearer to the end of term, in line with Government guidance, when we will of course do so. If your child has particular needs and would benefit from additional transition arrangements, then we will arrange these with if appropriate.

The Government are saying that they want primary schools to re-open fully before the end of term – how will this work?

We do not know. We have not received any guidance about this from the Government; they will decide if it is safe to begin planning for this, and what they expect it to look like, as they have done with partial re-opening. We will let you know as soon as we receive more information.

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