

COPPERMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning Together, Achieving Forever

Monday 18th May 2020

Re: The possible re-opening of school to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils

Dear Parent/s

I hope you are all well.

Following on from the text message that I sent to you last Monday, I have some further news about how we plan to proceed with possible opening for more children.

It's a very unsettling time for us all but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure that we're ready to receive the specified year groups **if** it's safe for **our** school to do so by the 1st June. My priority, as always is the health and safety of both the children and the staff, including their mental well-being.

Over the last few days I have been working with staff on planning and preparing for the possible return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only. Our action plan and risk assessments are being prepared so that we can implement protective measures such as social distancing, effective hygiene, cleaning frequently, minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetable (such as staggered break times). I have detailed below what the school's re-opening will look like in practice.

The details of our re-opening include:

- Maximum of 15 pupils in a group with the same class teacher/TA throughout the time using the largest classrooms in the school – this means that each class will be split into two groups and be in their own 'protective bubble'.
- Staggering break times, lunch times, pick-up and drop-off times for all groups – this will keep each group apart from each other at all times.
- Implementing a 'one way' in and 'one way' out system to prevent parents/children crossing paths when entering and exiting the site – allowing for social distancing.
- Every child will have their own zip wallet for their own resources such as pencil, ruler etc... and will be assigned their own individual table in their new classrooms (year 1 and year 6 only)
- Every staff member will attend 'induction' training on the 1st June (school will be closed for all pupils) so they are well-prepared to welcome back the children on their first day.
- Extended break times for all groups including afternoon breaks – so that the children are outside as much as possible (weather permitting).
- Lunch time meals will be packed lunch style and will be eaten in the classrooms.
- No unnecessary visitors will come on to the school site and parents will only come into school by appointment when and only if it is necessary.
- Regular hand washing will be implemented throughout the day for pupils and staff. Each group 'protective bubble' will have their own designated toilets to access and also use the sink in their classrooms.
- Increased cleaning will include using disinfectant and all areas will be deep cleaned every day, paying particular attention to door handles, school equipment, desks, light switches etc.
- Pupils and staff showing coronavirus symptoms will immediately be sent home and the normal official guidance will be adhered to.
- Not opening Nursery and our before or after-school club provision (breakfast and tea-time club).

It is of course regrettable that the children need to be separated in this way, however I am sure that all of you will understand why this is necessary if the risk of transmission is to be minimised. In addition, if the groups can be kept apart then the children and adults can then self-isolate at home without affecting the other groups if any suspected case arises.

Please be mindful that **if** and when more children return to school, they won't necessarily be taught by their familiar class teacher or be in their usual classroom however it will be a teacher well-suited to the Key Stage they are in and the classroom will be set up appropriately to manage their learning, behaviour and well-being. Also, whilst they won't be able to access the range of materials or equipment they would usually use, we will plan interesting and creative lessons that we hope they will enjoy.

Year 2 – 5 parents will again be reminded that the school will continue as before for children of priority groups and key workers. These children will also be in their group 'protective bubbles' separated from their peers. Today we had 19 pupils in school with us and we very pleased with how happy, comfortable and well behaved the children have been in the time with us – they have been a credit to their families whilst their parents have been able to carry on with their vital work.

Later on this week we will write to you again to give you specific timings of drop-off and pick-up times for each group. We will also let you know which teacher your child will be with. Please also note that starting from the week commencing 1st June the school **will close for the afternoon every Friday** so that teachers have their Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time and so children will go home after lunch. This is necessary due to the much higher pupil: teacher ratios required.

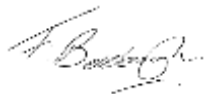
I will be in touch with you all again early next week with further details but in the meantime please do take the time to complete our survey: <https://forms.gle/11a1v6JRXtYEjg7A6> so that we are able to prepare for the likely number of children that will join us the week beginning the 1st June.

At this current time, we are unable to accommodate siblings from other year groups but we will of course update you if and when this changes.

Please note that the Department for Education have made it clear that it is not statutory for children to return to school at the moment. Therefore, you are entitled to keep your child at home if you wish to do and there will be no penalty. We will endeavour to continue to provide home learning support for those children who are not attending school.

Stay safe everyone.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Figen Bektaşoğlu

Headteacher

